TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2004

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c.j. watson

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THE FIRST WORD...

FROM THE AD'S DESK

The month of February finds us going in a number of different directions at once, what with a number of different sports competing for our attention.

We've scheduled Big Orange Receptions across the state, an effort to say thank you to the greatest fans in the country, we're going across the state and beyond to carry the message of Big Orange athletics. Our season ticket holders are the foundation of our tradition of success. We want Big Orange fans to know they can have the opportunity to be a special part of U.T. athletics as a season ticket holder without having to be on a waiting list.

We're also right in the middle of our annual Fund Drive, with our staff headed out across the state to tell the story of Tennessee athletics. We're anticipating a big year as we look to continue to provide the best for our student-athletes.

Todd Kelly and Pete Kutz are providing capable leadership as we head down the home stretch of the campaign. Thanks to all of you who have been involved. We appreciate your efforts.

I remind you that the deadline for benefits in the VASF program is March 1, just about a month away. The season ticket mailing will follow shortly thereafter and, before you know it, the Orange and White game weekend will follow April 16 and 17, with a host of activities, as always, set for even the most hardened Vol fan.

Let's continue to give all of our dedicated student-athletes the support they deserve.

Wednesday, Feb. 4, was a big day on campus as head coach Phillip Fulmer looked to bring in another highly-touted recruiting class on national signing day. You never know until a couple of years pass how these classes will turn out, but the future looks bright for Vol football.

February is always a hot time for hoops on campus. Both Buzz Peterson and Pat Summitt have put exciting teams on the courts and Thompson-Boling Arena is jumping every time either one of these teams tip it off. We're looking for big things on the hardwood with exciting young players and two hard-working coaches going at it each time out.

Baseball begins Feb. 13 and there'll be some new looks at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. There will be club seating behind home plate and new seats down the foul lines. Rod Delmonico's team has an exciting and challenging schedule and you'll want to be a part of it.

We were pleased to be able to honor former pitcher Mike Smithson and the late pitcher Tommy Bridges at our Lead-Off Banquet this month. Buck O'Neill was the featured speaker and his story appears later in this issue. This was a good kickoff to the baseball season and we look forward to the excitement of afternoons and evenings at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

As always, my door is always open to seeing you whenever you're in town or wherever the Vols might be competing. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Expect to win!

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE

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Latest News from the Wire: Tennessee has completed its 2004 football schedule by adding Louisiana Tech to the schedule. The Bulldogs will replace the Memphis Tigers on the 2004 schedule. The game is scheduled for Sept. 25 as Homecoming.

The return of a Pacific-10 Conference opponent and home games against Florida, Alabama and LSU highlight the 2006 Tennessee football schedule, released Tuesday by UT Director of Athletics Mike Hamilton. California opens the slate with a Sept. 2 visit to Neyland Stadium, marking the Golden Bears' third appearance in Knoxville. Tennessee defeated Cal 38-12 in 1987 after dropping a 27-17 decision in 1977. The 2006 game is part of a two-year contract that finds UT making a return trip to Berkeley, Calif., the following season.

2004 FOOTBALL RECRUITING

"LAST YEAR WAS A DRAMATIC FINISH, BUT I LIKE IT A LOT BETTER THIS WAY WHEN YOU EASE INTO IT."

Phillip Fulmer

When Phillip Fulmer met the media late in the afternoon of Feb. 4, National Signing Day, he expressed satisfaction with the recruiting class of 2004, one which included recruits from 12 states, the son of a former Vol All-America and two brothers; one of a tough-as-nails Vol wide receiver, and the other the younger brother of the current Vol All-America punter.

ERIK AINGE
QUARTERBACK, 6-6, 200
HILLSBORO, ORE. (GLENCOE HS)

Selected as the 2003 Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year ... A PrepStar All-America selection ... Rated by Superprep as the nation's No. 19-ranked quarterback prospect ... Rated by Rivals.com as a four-star prospect and the nation's No. 11-ranked pro-style quarterback ... Listed by ESPN.com recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the No. 21-ranked quarterback prospect in the nation ... Listed by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the nation's No. 28-ranked quarterback prospect ... Rated by recruiting expert Max Emfinger as a four-star dropback quarterback prospect ... Named first-team all-Metro quarterback in both his junior and senior years ... Selected as a Northwest Nugget (given to the top six athletes in Northwest United States) Named all-state as a senior ... Led the state in touchdowns, passing yards and completions ... Set school record for single-season passing, breaking the mark he set as a junior ... Passed for 3,118 yards, 24 touchdowns and eight interceptions as a senior in 2003 ... His best game as a senior came against Aloha High School, when he went 20-of-28 for 475 yards, five touchdowns and no interceptions (accounting for 62 points in three quarters of action) ... Also a skilled basketball player, he was named second-team all-Metro shooting guard as a junior, when he averaged 16.4 points per game ... Selected by Street & Smith as a preseason honorable mention All-America guard his senior year ... Played baseball as a freshman and sophomore, seeing action as a pitcher, shortstop and first baseman ... Threw a 90-mph fastball in baseball ... His father, Doug, attended Brigham Young on a basketball scholarship ... Nephew of former NBA veteran and current Boston Celtics' Executive Director of Basketball Operations Danny Ainge ... Coach at Glencoe HS: Craig Ruecker ... Full name: Erik Douglas Ainge ... Born: June 12, 1986.

ELL ASH
DEFENSIVE END, 6-5, 273
WILLINGBORO, N.J. (WILLINGBORO HS)

Tabbed by SuperPrep as the No. 17-ranked overall prospect in New Jersey ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the nation's No. 55-ranked offensive lineman prospect ... Ranked by Rivals.com as a three-star prospect, the No. 21-ranked overall prospect in New Jersey and the No. 46-ranked offensive guard prospect in the nation ... A PrepStar all-region (East) performer ... As a senior in 2003, he was named all-county, all-conference and all-South Jersey and second-team all-state ... As a senior defensive end, he posted 49 tackles, including three sacks ... Earned all-county and all-conference honors as a junior in 2002 ... Listed as the nation's top high school shot put specialists ... Posted one of the top shot put marks in the nation this year with a 59-11 toss in January 2004 ... Member of the Willingboro honor roll and named to the all-South Jersey academic all-star team ... Coach at Willingboro HS: Nelson Haystell ... Full name: Ell Edward Ash ... Born: April 20, 1986.

ROBERT AYERS
LINEBACKER, 6-3, 229
ST. CLIO, S.C. (MARLBORO COUNTY HS)

Named to the second-team defense on Fox Sports Net's 2003 "All-South" Team ... Was selected to play for the South Carolina team in the 2003 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas all-star game ... Named to PrepStar's Top-100 Dream Team ... Rated by Superprep as the nation's No. 3-ranked linebacker prospect and the No. 2 overall prospect in South Carolina ... Listed by ESPN.com recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the country's No. 7-ranked outside linebacker and the No. 86 overall prospect on his Top-100 list ... Rated by Rivals.com as a four-star prospect and the nation's No. 10-ranked inside linebacker ... Listed by TheInsiders.com as a four-star prospect and the nation's No. 8-ranked linebacker prospect ... Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super Southern 100 team ... Earned all-state honors in 2003 ... As a senior in 2003, he tallied 112 tackles and added five interceptions ... His best game as a senior came in the season opener against Clover High School, when he made 28 tackles ... He also returned kickoffs as a senior ... Recorded 94 tackles, including eight sacks and three interceptions as a junior in 2002 ... Ran the 100m and 4x100m relay on the track team ... Coach at Marlboro HS: Dean Boyd ... Full name: Robert Earnest Ayers Jr. ... Born: Sept. 6, 1985.

DEMONTE BOLDEN
DEFENSIVE TACKLE, 6-5, 294
CHATTANOOGA (TYNER ACADEMY)

SIGNED AND CURRENTLY ENROLLED - SPRING 2004

NAME	POSITION
Britton Colquitt	K/P
Jesse Mahelona	DT
Antonio Reynolds	DE/LB
Albert Toeaina	OT

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY SIGNEES - FEB. 2004

NAME	POSITION
Erik Ainge	QB
Ell Ash	DE
Robert Ayers	LB
Demonte Bolden	DT
Chris Brown	TE
Sinclair Cannon	Back
Arian Foster	TB
Ramon Foster	OT
Jonathan Hefney	DB
David Holbert	FB
Inquoris Johnson	DB
Ryan Karl	DB
Cameron Mayo	OL
Jerod Mayo	LB
Xavier Mitchell	DE
Anthony Parker	OL
Brent Schaeffer	QB
James Turner	LB
Ja'Kouri Williams	TB
Ellix Wilson	S

A PARADE All-America selection (the 61st such honoree to sign with Tennessee) ... Selected to USA Today's 2003 All-USA high school football team (the 30th such honoree to sign with Tennessee) ... Named 2003 2A Mr. Football Lineman of the Year in Tennessee ... Played for the East squad in the 2004 U.S. Army High School All-American Bowl ... Named to the first-team defense on Fox Sports Net's 2003 "All-South" Team ... Selected as the 2003 Lawrenceburg QB Club State Player of the Year ... Named East Tennessee Player of the Year ... Was a finalist for Tennessee's 2003 Mr. Football award ... A PrepStar All-America selection, a member of the PrepStar Top-100 Dream Team and rated by PrepStar as the No. 8-ranked defensive tackle prospect in the nation ... Listed on the Rivals 100 as the nation's No. 43-ranked overall prospect ... A five-star prospect and the nation's No. 3-ranked defensive tackle prospect by TheInsiders.com, and also listed as the No. 24-ranked overall prospect in the nation on TheInsiders.com's Hot 100 list ... Listed by ESPN.com recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the nation's No. 2-ranked defensive end prospect and the nation's No. 29 overall prospect on Tom Lemming's Top-100 list ... Named by The (Knoxville) News Sentinel as the No. 1 prospect in Tennessee ... Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super

"We are very pleased with the day's results and the end results of a lot of effort by our staff, who did a great job, and our players, who did a fantastic job of being hosts when we were able to get the prospects to campus.

"We met most of our needs with our class. There are certainly some opportunities for some young guys in this group to be of some immediate help. There are others who will provide long-term help, depending on the maturity and adjustment time that's always the case when a new class of Volunteers comes in.

"In the short term, the help should come the most quickly from the junior college players we signed in Albert Toeaina and Jesse Mahelona. A defensive tackle, Jesse is an outstanding football player and is in to the off-season program as is Albert, who is an offensive lineman. They'll be there and ready in spring practice. Another prep school signee we had is Antonio Reynolds. He has shown significant maturity and has a chance to ready to help us at defensive end or at linebacker.

"As we looked at our needs, both short- and long-term, it was obvious we needed to do well at the quarterback position. We worked really hard and went far and wide to find a quarterback or two we think will be able to fit in and help us. Both Brent Schaeffer and Erik Ainge fit that bill nicely. Both are athletic guys, with really very good intelligence. They come from passing type offenses and, depending how quickly they make the adjustment, they will be outstanding additions to our football team. They certainly will have a chance to put themselves into the mix once they get to campus.

"We had a number of other needs I think we addressed along the way, but obviously quarterback being the most immediate need along with the junior college guys.

"As you look at our football team and the guys who have a chance to fit in with this group, the defensive backs certainly have an opportunity to help quickly as we lost two outstanding safeties and an outstanding corner. You could really put Mark Jones into that category as well, since he played both ways for us. There are a number of guys in this class who have a chance to help at that position.

"We're always looking for a running back who can have some dynamics and Ja`Kouri Williams brings that to our campus with his speed. We needed a fullback, since we lost a really good player in Troy Fleming. David Holbert brings us that. At defensive end, I'm really excited about the potential of Xavier Mitchell and Ell Ash.

"They have a chance to come in and help quickly. At linebacker, there are Robert Ayers is a highly-recruited guy who chose to come here from South Carolina and Jarod Mayo, a linebacker who was defensive player of the year in Virginia.

"There are a number of guys we're very pleased with and we're looking forward to getting to campus. The most important thing is how quickly they make the transition. Most of our signees the last several years have come in in the summer. I would expect that a majority of these guys would, too, so the transition is easier in a nine-week span that coming in and three weeks later have to play a game."

Southern 100 team ... A three-time all-state, all-region and all-city selection ... Career defensive totals included 448 tackles, 250 solo stops, 198 assists, 123 TFLs, 33 forced fumbles and nine blocked punts ... As a senior in 2003, he tallied 112 tackles, including 64 solo stops, 17 sacks and 27 tackles for loss while leading Tyner to a 12-2 finish and a berth in the second round of the state playoffs ... Had a standout game against East Robertson, causing three forced fumbles, logging three sacks and causing six quarterback hurries ... As a junior in 2002, he recorded 140 tackles, including 29 tackles for loss and 13 sacks ... Was a four-year starter on the defensive front and a three-year starter at offensive guard ... Coach at Tyner Academy: Wayne Turner ... Full name: Demonte Lebron Bolden ... Born: Nov. 17, 1985.

CHRIS BROWN
TIGHT END, 6-2, 235
NEW ORLEANS, LA. (JESUIT HS)

Rated No. 29 on the Superprep Louisiana 40 list ... Listed by recruiting expert Tom Lemming as a three-star prospect ... Considered a two-star prospect by TheInsiders.com ... Listed as a two-star prospect by Rivals.com ... Named all-Captain's League and all-metro in 2003 ... As a senior in 2003, he caught 44 passes for 900 yards and seven touchdowns ... His best game came against Lafayette Carencro High School in the third round of the state playoffs, when he gained 180 yards and scored three touchdowns on nine catches ... Starting forward on the basketball team ... Coach at Jesuit HS: Vic Eumont ... Full name: Christopher Michael Brown ... Born: June 23, 1986.

SINCLAIR CANNON
ATHLETE, 6-3, 190
GREER, S.C. (GREER HS)

Was selected to play for the South Carolina team in the 2003 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas all-star game ... Selected as the Greer Area TD Club 2003 Player of the Year ... Ranked No. 9 overall on the Superprep South Carolina 42 list ... Listed by Insiders.com as the No. 32-ranked safety in the country and a three-star prospect ... Rated by Rivals.com as a two-star prospect ... Earned all-region, all-state and all-county honors in 2003 ... Finished an outstanding senior season with 1,774 passing yards while completing 122-of-230 attempts for 20 touchdowns to only six interceptions ... He also ran for 1,634 yards and 20 rushing touchdowns and caught three passes for 72 yards ... His all-purpose-yard prowess helped lead the Yellow Jackets to a 13-2 record and the 2003 Class AAA state championship ... His best game as a senior came against Spartanburg Broome High School, when he accounted for four total touchdowns (two rushing and two passing) ... As a junior in 2002, he rushed for 800 yards and 10 touchdowns and threw for two more scores ... Holds the Greer all-time school record for rushing attempts and yards by a quarterback ... Played power forward and center on the basketball team as a junior ... Participated in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay while helping lead Greer to the 2003 South Carolina team track title ... Coach at Greer HS: Travis Perry ... Full name: Johnny Sinclair Cannon ... Born: Nov. 19, 1985.

BRITTON COLQUITT
KICKER/PUNTER, 6-3, 199
KNOXVILLE (BEARDEN HS)

Currently enrolled at UT and will participate in spring practice as a freshman in 2004 ... Originally signed with Tennessee in February 2003 ... Garnered AP and Sportswriters All-State honors in both his junior and senior seasons ... Averaged 45.2 yards on 41 punts and also made a 52-yard field

goal as a senior ... Kicked the winning field goal in a 10-9 victory over Science Hill, during which he had six punts for a 52.2-yard average with three downed inside the 5-yard line ... More than 95 percent of his kickoffs went into the end zone ... Three-year kicker and punter and had 34 catches for 344 yards as a receiver his senior season ... Brother of current Vols punter Dustin Colquitt and son of former UT and Pittsburgh Steelers star Craig Colquitt ... Key member of Bearden soccer team that went 25-0 in 2002, won its second straight state title and finished No. 1 in the NSCAA/Adidas national rankings ... Played forward on that team, with 16 goals and 15 assists ... Scored the winning goal in the fourth overtime of the state title game, a 4-3 win over Clarksville ... Coach at Bearden HS: Paul Maynard. ... Full name: Britton Douglas Colquitt ... Born: March 20, 1985.

ARIAN FOSTER
TAILBACK, 6-1, 205
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (MISSION BAY HS)

Listed by Rivals.com as a three-star prospect and ranked as the No. 22 all-purpose-back prospect in the country ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 69-ranked running-back prospect in the country ... Named to The San Diego Union-Tribune's All-San Diego Western League first-team running back ... Named all-region (West) by PrepStar ... Also earned all-California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) honors ... Led the county with 2,093 all-purpose yards, racking up 1,596 rushing yards and 17 rushing touchdowns while adding six scores on kickoff returns as a senior in 2003 ... Had a 223-yard game against Point Loma High School in 2003 ... Also ran track and played basketball ... Coach at Mission Bay HS: Dennis Pugh ... Full name: Arian Isa Foster ... Born: Aug. 24, 1986.

RAMON FOSTER
OFFENSIVE TACKLE, 6-7, 285
HENNING (RIPLEY HS)

Rated by ESPN.com recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the No. 3 overall prospect in Tennessee ... Listed by Rivals.com as a three-star prospect and ranked as the No. 36 offensive tackle prospect in the country ... A three-star prospect and the No. 70-ranked offensive line prospect in the country according to TheInsiders.com ... Named by The (Knoxville) News Sentinel as the No. 5-ranked prospect in Tennessee ... Named a first-team Associated Press and Writers' all-state performer ... Named all-region (Southeast) by PrepStar ... 2003 Class AAA Mr. Football among lineman ... Selected as an all-West Tennessee performer ... Led Ripley to a 10-2 record and a berth in the second round of the state playoffs in 2003, while grading out at 90 percent on offense ... Was a four-year starter on both offense and defense ... Also handled some place-kicking and kickoff duties ... A three-year starter as center on the basketball team ... As a member of the Ripley track team, he posted a career-best shot put mark of 45-11 ... Younger brother of Louisville offensive lineman Renardo Foster ... Coach at Ripley HS: Johnny McAdams ... Full name: Ramon Sentrell Foster ... Born: Jan. 7, 1986.

JONATHAN HEFNEY
DEFENSIVE BACK, 5-10, 172
ROCK HILL, S.C. (HARGRAVE MILITARY ACADEMY)

Originally signed with Tennessee in February 2003 before enrolling at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy ... Played one season (2003) at Hargrave before re-signing with Tennessee ... Listed by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the nation's No. 34-ranked defensive back prospect ... Ranked by Rivals.com as the nation's No. 24 cornerback prospect and the No. 18 overall prospect in South Carolina as a high school senior in 2002 ... Rated by SuperPrep as the No. 11-ranked overall prospect in South Carolina in 2002 ... Named all-region that year on both offense and defense ... Led his team to a 15-0 record in 2002 with more than 80 tackles and five interceptions as a senior... Had interception and fumble return for touchdowns ... Also rushed 96 times from the quarterback position for more than 800 yards and 10 touchdowns ... Completed 32 of 62 passes for four touchdowns ... Returned two kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns ... Rock Hill was the state's only undefeated prep team in 2002 ... Set school record for career starts with 56, breaking the old mark of 55 held by current Pittsburgh Steelers DB Chris Hope ... As a junior in 2001, he made 81 tackles and intercepted five passes ... Had six interceptions in his first two prep seasons ... Coach at Hargrave Military Academy: Robert Prunty ... Coach at Rock Hill HS: Jim Ringer ... Full name: Jonathan J. Hefney ... Born: Feb. 27, 1985.

DAVID HOLBERT
FULLBACK, 6-1, 237
NASHVILLE (BRENTWOOD ACADEMY)

Listed by Superprep as the No. 4-ranked fullback prospect in the nation and the No. 3-ranked overall prospect in Tennessee ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 49-ranked running back prospect in the nation ...Ranked by Rivals.com as the No. 4 fullback in the nation and a four-star prospect ... Selected as a 2003 Associated Press and Writers' all-state performer ... Named to The Tennessean's all-midstate team ... Named by The (Knoxville) News Sentinel as the No. 2 overall prospect in Tennessee ... Named all-region (Southeast) by PrepStar ... As a senior in 2003, he racked up more than 700 yards and 22 touchdowns on offense, while totaling 80 tackles, including 12 for loss and four forced fumbles as a linebacker on defense ... Garnered all-region and all-area honors as junior in 2002 while gaining 900 yards rushing and scoring 18 touchdowns ... Also played linebacker, totaling 80 tackles and two interceptions ... A three-year starter at running back and linebacker ... Played three years of high school basketball ... Participated in the 4x100m relay and the shot put in track and field ... Coach at Brentwood Academy: Carlton Flatt ... Full name: David Richard Montrel Holbert... Born: Aug. 2, 1986.

INQUORIS JOHNSON
ATHLETE, 6-0, 170
ATLANTA, GA. (CRIM HS)

Nicknamed "Inky" ... Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Georgia Top-50 team ... Rated by Rivals.com as a two-star prospect ... Considered a two-star prospect and the No. 96-ranked wide receiver prospect in the nation by TheInsiders.com ... Earned all-state honors as a returner and all-city as a wide receiver in 2003 ... As a senior, he posted four interceptions on defense ... On offense as a senior, he caught 30 passes for 443 yards and six touchdowns and rushed for 505 yards and four touchdowns on 40 carries ... Suffered a broken collarbone in the opening game of his junior season ... A four-sport athlete who also participates in basketball, track and field and baseball ... Averaging 25 points as a starting point guard ... Coach at Crim HS: Darren Miles ... Full name: Inquoris Desmond Chade Johnson ... Born: Feb. 12, 1986.

RYAN KARL
DEFENSIVE BACK, 6-0, 200
NASHVILLE (BATTLE GROUND ACADEMY)

Named the 2003 Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year ... Selected as Tennessee's Div. II Mr. Football in 2003 ... Ranked by Superprep as the No. 18 overall prospect in Tennessee ... Rated by Rivals.com as a two-star prospect ... Listed by TheInsiders.com as a two-star prospect and the No. 60-ranked defensive back prospect in the nation ... Tabbed by PrepStar as an all-region (Southeast) defensive back ... Selected as a 2003 Associated Press and Writers' all-state performer ... Named to The Tennessean's all-midstate team ... Listed by The (Knoxville) News Sentinel as the No. 20-ranked overall prospect in Tennessee ... Helped lead Battle Ground Academy to the 2003 Division II-AA state championship with 269 yards rushing on 25 carries in the 24-19 title-game victory over Knoxville Catholic ... Finished his career with more than 6,000 rushing yards and 66 touchdowns ... Rushed for more than 1,400 yards as a senior and more than 6,000 yards during his prep career ... For his efforts, he was named 2003 Tennessee Mr. Football Division II-A/AA back ... As a junior in 2002, he garnered TSWA Division II all-state honors ... Also ran track at BGA ... Coach at Battle Ground Academy: Tim Moore ... Full name: Ryan Matthew Karl ... Born: Aug. 13, 1985.

CAMERON MAYO
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN, 6-5, 260
DALTON, GA. (DALTON HS)

Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Georgia Top-50 team ... Rated by Superprep as the No. 40 overall prospect in the state of Georgia ... Listed by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 78-ranked offensive lineman prospect in the nation ... Rated by Rivals.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 6-ranked offensive center in the nation ... Named all-region (Southeast) by PrepStar ... Selected to play in the Georgia North-South all-star game ... Earned all-state honors while serving as team captain in 2003 ... As a senior in 2003, he graded out at 88 percent playing offensive tackle ... His best game as a senior came against Paulding County, when he graded out at 92 percent offensively and 85 percent defensively in the three-overtime contest ... A three-year starter at offensive tackle, and started as a senior at defensive end ... Teams compiled 13-2, 8-2 and 8-2 record during his three years as a starter, reaching the state championship game in 2001 ... A proficient deep snapper ... Averaging nine points and 10 rebounds as a center on the basketball team ... His father, Bill Mayo, played offensive guard at Tennessee from 1981-84 and garnered All-America honors in 1984 ... Attended the same school as former UT All-

Americas Ricky Townsend and Jimmy Weatherford ... Coach at Dalton HS: Ronnie McClurg ... Full name: Cameron Andrew Mayo ... Born: Dec. 28, 1985.

JEROD MAYO
LINEBACKER, 6-2, 215
HAMPTON, VA. (KECOUGHTAN HS)

A PrepStar All-America selection ... Rated by Superprep as the No. 6 overall prospect in Virginia ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 25-ranked linebacker prospect in the nation ... Rated by Rivals.com as a four-star prospect and the No. 11 outside linebacker in the country ... Defensive player of the year in the Peninsula area and named all-state and first-team All-5AAA ... As a senior in 2003, he recorded 110 tackles, including 18 for loss and two interceptions ... Also played running back for seven games as a senior, picking up 1,245 rushing yards and scoring 13 touchdowns (and five two-point conversions) ... Garnered first-team all-district, all-area and all-region honors as a junior in 2002 while recording 68 tackles, including 22 for loss, four interceptions and three sacks ... A three-year starter at both linebacker and running back ... Coach at Kecoughtan HS: Tommy Austin ... Full name: Jerod Andrew Mayo... Born: Feb. 23, 1986.

XAVIER MITCHELL
DEFENSIVE END, 6-3, 250
LONG BEACH, MISS. (LONG BEACH HS)

Named to the second-team defense on Fox Sports Net's 2003 "All-South" Team ... Tabbed by Superprep as the No. 37-ranked defensive lineman prospect in the country ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a four-star prospect and the No. 15-ranked defensive end prospect in the nation ... Earned all-state, all-coast and all-district 5A as a senior in 2003 ... Recorded 80 tackles and six sacks during his senior campaign ... As a junior in 2002, he recorded 73 tackles and 10 sacks on his way to honorable mention all-state honors ... Started four years on the defensive line and saw action at fullback and tight end on offense ... A three-year starter on the basketball team, averaging 10 points and 10 rebounds ... Coach at Long Beach HS: Sean Harden ... Full name: Xavier Wayne Mitchell... Born: June 10, 1986.

ANTHONY PARKER
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN, 6-4, 290
LOVEJOY, GA. (LOVEJOY HS)

Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Georgia Top-50 team ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 49-ranked offensive lineman prospect in the nation ... Tabbed by Rivals.com as a three-star prospect, the No. 40-ranked offensive guard in the country and the No. 49-ranked prospect on the Georgia top-50 list ... Listed by ESPN.com recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the nation's No. 21-ranked defensive tackle prospect ... Selected to play in the Georgia North-South all-star game ... Earned all-state, all-region, all-county and all-Southern Crescent honors while leading his team to an 11-1 record in 2003 ... Recorded 35 pancake blocks and graded out at 91 percent as a senior ... Named all-region and all-county as a junior in 2002 ... A three-year starter at offensive guard ... Played basketball as a sophomore ... Coach at Lovejoy HS: Al Hughes ... Full name: Anthony Xavier Parker ... Born: April 2, 1986.

BRENT SCHAEFFER
QUARTERBACK, 6-3, 190
DEERFIELD BEACH, FLA. (DEERFIELD BEACH HS)

A PrepStar All-America selection ... Rated by Superprep as the No. 10-ranked quarterback prospect in the nation and No. 8-ranked overall prospect in Florida ... Listed by recruiting expert Tom Lemming as the No. 16-ranked quarterback prospect in the nation ... Rated by Rivals.com as a four-star prospect and the No. 7 dual-threat quarterback in the nation ... Rated by TheInsiders.com as a four-star prospect and the No. 14-ranked quarterback prospect in the country ... Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super Southern 100 team ... Tabbed by the Miami Herald as the No. 11 overall prospect in Florida and the top prospect in Broward County ... Threw for 2,177 yards and 24 touchdowns while adding 397 rushing yards and 12 rushing touchdowns as a senior in 2003 ... Attended the Elite 11 quarterback camp after his junior season ... As a junior in 2002, he garnered honorable mention all-state honors ... His junior-year stats include 2,574 yards passing for 31 touchdowns and 538 rushing yards and 15 rushing touchdowns ... Coach at Deerfield Beach HS: Perry Schneider ... Full name: Brentis Jarryn Schaeffer... Born: Jan. 24, 1986.

JAMES TURNER
LINEBACKER, 5-11, 210
AUGUSTA, ARK. (AUGUSTA HS)

Listed by TheInsiders.com as a two-star prospect ... Rated by Rivals.com as a two-star prospect ... Earned all-state and all-district honors in 2003 ... As a senior running back in 2003, he recorded 1,603 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns while averaging 8.4 yards per carry ... His best game came against Harding Academy, when he posted 297 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries ... A three-year starter at running back and a two-year starter at linebacker ... As a sophomore in 2001, he earned Arkansas Super Sophomore honors ... Also played basketball and track ... Competed in the 110m hurdles, shot put and long jump on the track team ... Nicknamed "J.T." ... Coach at Augusta HS: Heath Prime ... Full name: James Albert Turner II ... Born: Jan. 1, 1986.

ELLIX WILSON
SAFETY, 6-0, 205
MEMPHIS (MELROSE HS)

Selected to both the Tennessee Sports Writers' Association Class 4A and Associated Press all-state teams in 2003 ... Tabbed by Superprep as the No. 17 prospect in Tennessee ... Ranked by TheInsiders.com as a three-star prospect and the No. 36-ranked safety prospect in the nation ... Named by The (Knoxville) News Sentinel as the No. 6 prospect in Tennessee ... Tabbed by PrepStar as an all-region (Southeast) defensive back ... Had a standout game against Hillsboro in the 2003 state semifinals, recording 12 tackles, forcing three fumbles and returning one fumble for a touchdown ... A four-year starter in the defensive backfield ... Selected to the MIAA 4A all-metro team as a junior in 2002 ... Ran the 100m on his high-school track team ... Brother of former UT wide receiver and current San Francisco 49ers wideout Cedrick Wilson ... Coach at Melrose HS: Kenny Ingram ... Full name: Ellix H. Wilson ... Born: July 9, 1985.

Jesse Mahelona

Defensive Tackle, 6-2, 295

Mahelona enrolled in January after graduating early from Orange Coast Community College and is already working out with the squad. He comes to Tennessee from OCC College via Kailua-Kana Hawaii. He is ranked by several publications as one of the top defensive tackles, and the best coming out of junior college at his position in the nation. He has a brother, Steven. who is a running back at nearby Tusculum College. He was born April 7, 1983.

Albert Toeaina

Offensive Tackle, 6-5, 345

This juco player comes to Tennessee from City College of San Francisco. He is considered by many experts as the top offensive lineman coming out of the junior college ranks. He earned first team All-State, All-Conference and All-America honors while in high school and at CC of San Francisco. He played in the California High School All-Star game. At 6-5 he is one of the largest lineman on Tennessee's squad. His brother, Matt, plays defensive end at Oregon. Toeaina was born June 26, 1984.

Antonio Reynolds

Linebacker, 6-3, 233

Reynolds is projected to play the defensive end position after playing linebacker at Hargrave Military Academy. He hails from Akron, Ohio, where he earned All-City and All-State honors Although he signed with Miami (Fla.) he ended up at Hargrave where he worked on both his academic and athletic skills. His brother Steven plays at Youngstown State. Reynolds was born March 23, 1984.

Former Vol Todd Kelly is taking a special interest in the fundraising for the University of Tennessee as he is a featured speaker at many of the receptions across the state.

TODD KELLY SPEAKS AT BIG ORANGE FAN RECEPTION

When the University of Tennessee kicked off the Big Orange Fan Receptions Jan. 15 in Kingsport, the first speaker proved to be as motivated in front of the crowd of 50 or so people in attendance as he was when he wore Orange and White jersey No. 58 during his Vol playing career from 1989-92.

Todd Kelly, a Vol defensive end and All-SEC selection his senior season, was the speaker and his remarks were right on target.

With considerable fervor, he recalled his career and what he learned as a Vol student-athlete. The remarks were well-received and bode well for the success of the campaign he and Pete Kutz are heading up.

"I want to talk about myself and what Tennessee did for me," he said. "I was 17 years old when I came to the University of Tennessee in 1989 on full scholarship. I did well in school and maintained a 3.0 GPA. I met my wife here and we've been married 11 years, with two children, Todd II and Carter, my daughter.

"I had a chance to win two SEC championships, in 1989 and 1990, my freshman and sophomore years. I played behind Marion Hobby my first year and behind Chuck Smith the next two years. My senior year, I had the most sacks of anybody in Tennessee history except Reggie White, a great player who still holds the Tennessee sack records to this day."

It was a matter of the passion he had inside, the chance to represent UT, he said. It led to another opportunity, this time in the pros with the San Francisco 49ers.

"In my second year in the NFL, I won a Super Bowl ring," he said. "Not only that, I had a chance to play and be vested by the NFL."

Then came the crisis, if you will, that caused Kelly to have some serious thinking to do. It was a crossroads.

"Then I blew my knee out," he said. "I didn't know what I was going to do. I had dreamed about playing football and thought I might play for 15 years. My career was cut short."

But then came the epiphany, the moment where preparation met opportunity.

"I remembered I had a degree," he said. "The reason I got that degree was because people like you gave to the scholarship fund and gave me the opportunity to have a second life after football.

"I couldn't play football any more. I didn't know where I was going. The first place was Court South, a workout club in Knoxville. The time came to get serious.

"I made great money in the NFL. I wanted to be in sales. I went back to my degree. One of the first bullet points on there was ex-University of Tennessee football player."

That said, he interviewed with Johnson and Johnson ("the baby lotion and powder people").

"I got a job selling medical devices to gynecologists and urologists," he said. "After three years, I moved up the ranks and I'm selling surgical equipment to cardiac surgeons who do bypass surgery."

The key, he said once again, was the Tennessee donors.

"There are kids on that field right now," he said, pointing to a Vol highlight video running in the background, "who come from bad family situations. Donors from the University of Tennessee gave them the opportunity for a full scholarship, and an education to carry on the tradition."

Tradition never graduates, he said cogently.

"I challenge donors to step up," he said. "There are kids out there with the talent and ability, who need the help and opportunity only a scholarship can provide. That comes from people like you."

The Tennessee tradition is a strong one, he said, harking to the days he signed a lot of autographs.

One person in the audience had a picture of Kelly standing on the rain-soaked greensward of Shields-Watkins Field in 1992 in the famous "rain game against the hated Florida Gators." Kelly was impressed and affixed his signature willingly.

"I want to be here," he said. "I'm here because of the opportunity the University of Tennessee gave me. I was proud to run through the 'T.' It gave me chillbumps then and gives me chillbumps now. I want to be able to say to all donors, past and present, that we keep the tradition, like the Ohio States, the Nebraskas.

"It made me mad when we'd lose a game and fans would write us off. Then you also had those true fans who stuck with us and rode it out."

Then came the clincher.

"If it weren't for the University of Tennessee and God's control, I wouldn't be here today," he said. "I want to thank the donors. There are guys out there who would love to be in my shoes and come thank you. When we see fans donating and sticking by their team, it goes a long way.

"I don't like it when fans boo," Kelly said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "Don't be sitting by me and boo. You might get an elbow."

He concluded by talking about the realities of life.

"I want to stress that some of us aren't fortunate enough from a financial standpoint as we grow up," he said. "I live in West Knoxville and deal with a lot of successful people like yourselves. It takes passion inside to be a donor."

Kelly said the players who can get Tennessee to another SEC title are out there right now. Many of them signed Feb. 4.

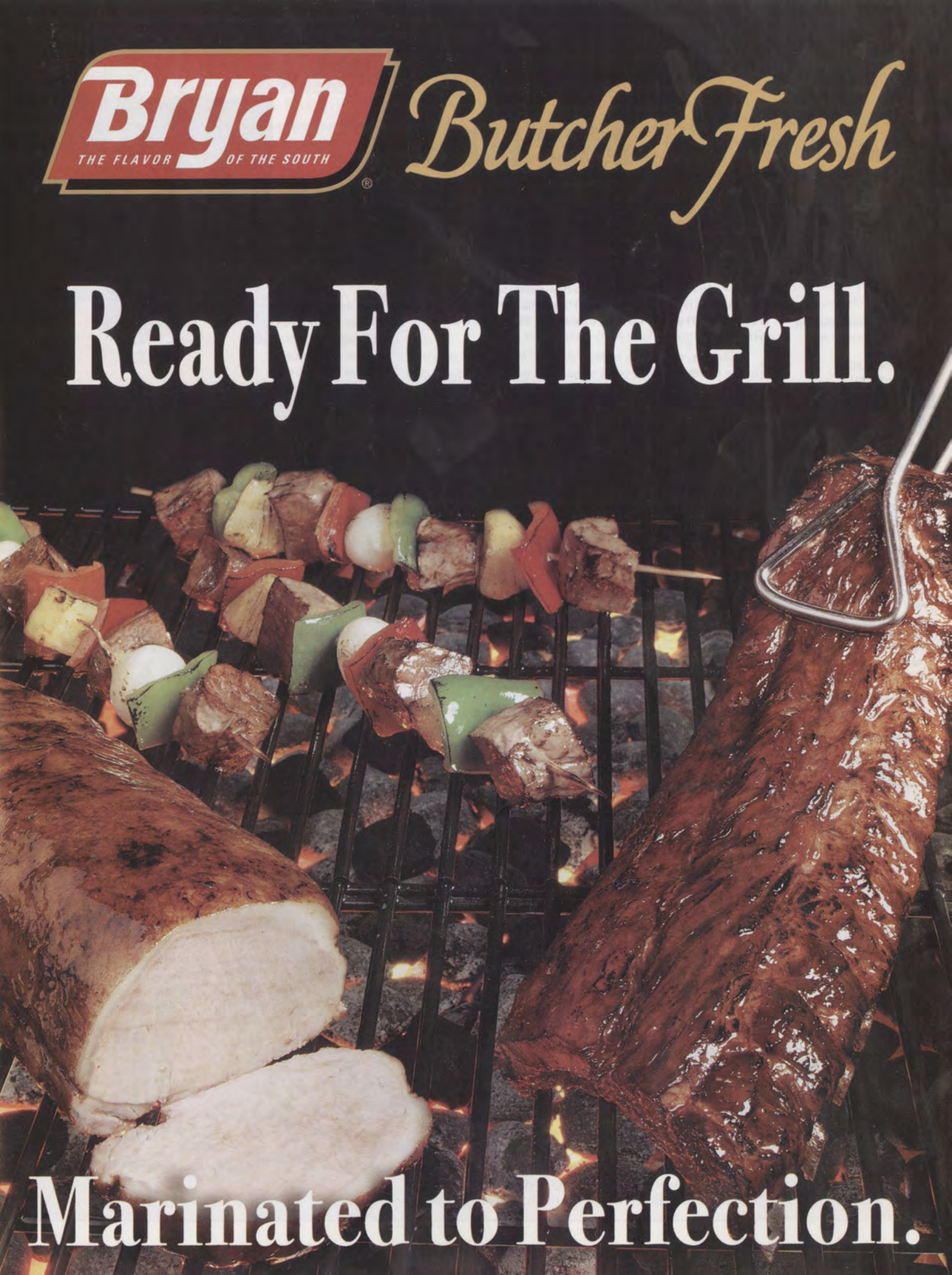
"It all starts with the donors," he said. "Without donors, there are no scholarships."

When the Big Orange Fan Receptions make it across the state, others involved in the program, like Condredge Holloway, athletic director Mike Hamilton and the like will speak on similar topics.

If you watched Todd Kelly play in the late 1980s and early 1990s, you remember his passion and love for the game.

If you saw him in Kingsport or see him any place else he speaks, that passion for the university is still evident in the way he speaks and the commitment he made.

The challenge is right there in front of us. It is very likely that Tennessee fans will step up, just like they have over the years.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DALE ELLIS:

When the SEC convenes in Atlanta in March for the Conference basketball tournament, a former Vol who distinguished himself as a collegian and then in a long and successful career in the NBA will represent the University of Tennessee as the school's legend.

Ellis was, during his college career, "Mr. Inside," pouring in the points from the paint to become the fifth leading scorer in Vol history. He was the premier recruit signed during the Don DeVoe era, and didn't disappoint anybody with his play on the court. Not in the least.

Ellis came to Tennessee from Marietta, Ga., in 1980. He was a two-time All-America selection (1982, 1983), a three-time All-SEC performer (1981, 1982 and 1983), and was selected SEC Player of the Year (1982 and 1983).

Ellis, who led Tennessee to the 1982 SEC championship, is one of only five Tennessee players to score more than 2000 points. His SEC-leading field goal percentage of 65.4 percent in 1981-82 is still the Vols" record. It was the nation's best mark by a forward.

He had the game-wining shot March 15, 1981, against Virginia Commonwealth in the East Regional in the NCAA Tourney. He had similar game-winning shots during his career against Vanderbilt in the 1981 SEC Tournament and a dunk for the game-winner against Georgia. The list goes on and on.

He was a composed, poised player who was the focal point of opposing defenses but got the ball in the basket nevertheless. He hit for 20 points or more on 23 occasions his senior year, and 30 or more seven times. He averaged 21.2 points as a junior and 22.6 as a senior. As a senior, he led the team and ranked No. 2 in the SEC in scoring. *Sports Illustrated* called him a "formidable forward," after the Vols had spoiled the opening game at the Roundhouse in Chattanooga. The Vols won and UTC forward Stanford Strickland said of Ellis: "I did what I could, but I've never been up a against a player like that."

He finished as UT's third-leading scorer all-time and only with the advent of Tony White and Allan Houston did he drop to fifth. That's quite a tribute.

In the NBA, he became "Mr. Outside," arguably the best 3-point shooter in NBA history. Ellis played a remarkable 19 seasons for nine different teams after starting with the Dallas Mavericks. He led the league in 3-point shooting percentage in 1997-98 with 46.4-percent mark from the 3-point stripe.

He played in 1209 NBA games, starting 589. He shot 47.9 percent from the floor, 40.3 percent from 3-point range and 78.4 from the charity stripe. He averaged 15.7 points per game.

Ellis, who now lives in his native Marietta, might have presaged his 3-point prowess in the pros, saying, "when I have the ball low, I have to make that shot. I can shoot from 15 to 18 feet. I can shoot from further out than that, but here at Tennessee if I took that shot and didn't make it I'd be sitting," said Ellis. He didn't sit much, at Tennessee or in the pros. He was that good.

After all, he's now a legend.

Sidenote: Former Vol basketball coach Don DeVoe announced that he will retire after the 2003-04 season, after 12 years as the Navy Midshipmen head coach. DeVoe posted a 204-137 mark with the Vols (1979-89) and is the second winningest coach in Tennessee history - trailing Ray Mears' 278 victories.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Lettermen,

This column is usually filled with information about what our board is working on and planning. This month, I would like to share with you the works of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) was actually formed in 1985 by former baseball player and current Lettermen's Club board member Bobby Gaylor and ex-football player Tommy Sims. This committee, made up of student-athletes, both men and women, from all sports, is designed to let student-athletes address issues of their welfare at Tennessee. The committee can facilitate better communications among the student-athletes to the various teams.

I am now asking for your help. The SAAC has asked the Lettermen's Club for our assistance in helping current student-athletes complete internships, act as mentors in certain job fields and help in job placement after graduation. You will be getting a mailing about this in the coming weeks. Please consider helping fellow Tennessee student-athletes out as they begin their working career.

Rusty Ensor

President

VASF NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

BIG ORANGE FAN RECEPTIONS

Big Orange Fan Receptions will wrap up this month with stops in Nashville, Maryville, Morristown, Knoxville and Asheville, N.C. The events are free to all Vol fans, so bring your family and friends and join us for a night of Big Orange fellowship. We are asking those who plan on attending to RSVP by phone to (865) 974-1218 or by e-mail to vasf@utk.edu. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and Volunteer special guests will be on hand to meet with fans.

Date	Times	City	Location	Speaker
Feb. 12	6:00-7:30	Asheville	Crest Mountain	Dan Brooks
Feb. 17	6:00-7:30	Morristown	Morristown C.C.	Randy Sanders
Feb. 19	6:00-7:30	Knoxville	Wolf-Kaplan Center	John Chavis

MARCH 1 PRIORITY DEADLINE

The VASF priority deadline for football season tickets, away game tickets and parking is March 1. The VASF accepts cash, checks and Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Please make all checks out to the University of Tennessee. If paying by credit card, please list the name of the cardholder, the account number and the expiration date on the contribution card. If you have any questions, please call the VASF office at (865) 974-1218 or logon to *www.utsports.com*.

SEC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TICKETS

The SEC Basketball Tournament will be held in Atlanta March 11-14. Tickets are still available through the UT ticket office for those of you who have not yet placed your orders. For more information, please contact the ticket office at (865) 656-1200. For those who have already placed orders, the tickets will be mailed out in mid-February.

VOLS PLACE 20 ON SEC ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Twenty Tennessee football student-athletes qualified for the Southeastern Conference fall 2003 Academic Honor Roll.

Leading the way was four-time selection Andrew Crossley from Talbott. Crossley just completed his UT playing career and sported a cumulative 3.01 grade-point average in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology. The senior fullback is likely headed for medical school.

Defensive back Dusty Ishii and place-kicker Andy Kerr were named for the third consecutive year. Ishii, from Huntington Beach, Calif., has a cumulative 3.24 GPA in public relations, while Maryville-native Kerr owns a 3.11 GPA in animal science.

Two-time honors went to linebacker Kevin Burnett (3.60, sport management), offensive guard Guillaume Dumont (3.72, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology), punter John Henderson (3.23, sport management), offensive tackle Michael Munoz (3.13, political science) and place-kicker Philip Newman (3.04, sport management).

UT student-athletes making their first appearances on the honor roll were defensive back Peter Chang (3.25, business), quarterback Jim Bob Cooter (3.51, sport management), wide receiver C.J. Fayton (3.25, sport management), wide receiver Kip Hartman (3.12, exercise science), defensive back Steve Mugleston (3.19, Russian), fullback Brad Sharp (3.01, political science), offensive guard Rob Smith (3.27, sociology, criminal justice), defensive back Ian Vinson (3.23, arts and sciences), tailback Todd Vinson (3.03, arts and sciences), offensive guard Sam Wantland (3.47, history) and place-kicker James Wilhoit (3.62, speech communications).

To qualify, student-athletes must meet the following criteria: a GPA of 3.00 for either the preceding academic year or have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above; be on scholarship, receive a varsity letter or have participated on a varsity team for two years if non-scholarship; have completed 24 semester hours of non-remedial credit; and have been a member of the varsity team for the sport's entire season. Since 1993, 162 Vols have been named Academic All-SEC.

COCA-COLA COMMUNITY ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM NOMINEES RECOGNIZED

The Coca-Cola Company has teamed with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) to recognize community service in intercollegiate athletics at NCAA, NAIA and Junior/Community College member institutions.

The Coca-Cola Community All-Americans program is designed to help institutions recognize, celebrate and applaud student-athletes who are making a difference in their communities. On college campuses across the country student-athletes are giving it their all not only on the playing field but also in their communities through hands-on volunteerism and service.

Each institution is encouraged to nominate multiple student-athletes who excel in community service, and then chose one student-athlete as the school's annual Coca-Cola Community All-American. That nominee will then have a chance to compete against other institution's nominees for consideration at the national level. A panel of NACDA representatives will select one student-athlete from each division (NCAA,NAIA, and Junior/Community College member institutions) who has a compelling story to tell regarding community service.

We are proud to announce this year's University of Tennessee Coca-Cola Community All-American Program nominees: Luke Hochevar, C.J. Watson, Jessica Shepley, Ty Fluker, Parys Haralson, Melinda Morrow, Dee Dee Trotter, Marc Sylvester, Stacey Jennings, Evan Nylander, Nikki Bratta, Michelle Piantodosi, Wade Orr, Chris Robinson, Graciela Breece Rodriguez and Katie Bargreen.

In this issue we will look at eight of these nominees as part one of a two part series.

Hochevar, a sophomore from Colorado and a member of Rod Delmonico's baseball team has been active in service with Norwood Elementary School as part of the "Take Me Out to the Ball game" literacy event and the MDA's Muscle Team Dinner. He has also read to kids at Sarah Moore Green Elementary and Farragut Intermediate School, visited patients at East Tennessee Children's Hospital, participated in the Salvation Army Stuff-a-Stocking program, served as a finish line greeter at the Buddy's Race Against Cancer and spoke to a local DECA group (developing future leaders in marketing, management and entrepreneurship).

Watson, a sophomore on Buzz Peterson's Vol basketball team, not only stepped onto the court as a freshman to fill the point guard position, but has made community service a priority in his first two years at Tennessee by donating his time to several community organizations. His service to the community has included visiting the UT Medical Center, serving as a celebrity reader at Spring Hill Elementary for Dr. Suess' Birthday Bash, speaking to a youth basketball camp at Johnson Bible College, signing autographs for children at Volunteer Village and hosting the Wesley House children with the entire basketball team.

Shepley, a native of Ontario, Canada, is a junior Lady Vol golfer. Jessica has taken time from her busy schedule and provided service to the Lady Vol golf pen pal program through the Katie Miller Home, the Johnson Group Home and Sarah Moore Green Elementary. Jessica has become a Big Sister to a local 8-year-old for a full year of companionship. She has also participated in the Lady Vol Fund Run in 2002 and 2003, gave away Thanksgiving baskets at the Center of Hope, provided skill guidance at an LPGA youth golf clinic, participated in the "Take Back the Night" walk for the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and gathered clothing to donate to the Sexual Crisis Assault Center.

Sophomore Lady Vol basketball player Fluker has been a major contributor to the community. Ty is as strong on the court as she is in the community. Ty has appeared in a Knoxville's Promise public service announcement, visited area schools to read more than 40 times, sang Christmas carols to the residents at the Shannondale Nursing Home, assisted runners and walkers at the Race for the Cure and participated the Lady Vol Fund Run.

Senior Lady Vol tennis player Morrow is a native of Montgomery, Ala. Morrow has found her stroke when it comes to community service. Morrow has visited several schools to read to the kids, participated in the Lady Vol Fund Run, was on the roster for the MDA's Muscle Team Dinner, participated in the Knoxville Humane Society's volunteer orientation program, visited with elderly residents of the Samaritan Place and attended a picnic held by Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Senior swimmer Evan Nylander hails from Tucker Ga. Evan has definitely turned some gold medal laps in community service.Evan has worked with Special Olympics, mentored two children at Inskip Elementary for 75 hours, participated in Salvation Army Stuff-a-Stocking program, attended the MDA's Muscle Team Dinner, coordinated a swimming team Holiday Gift Basket program sponsored by Fellowship Church and spoke to several classes at Fort Craig Elementary.

Sophomore Lady Vol softball player Jennings has been an ace in the community. Stacey coached practice and taught related skills to the Cheetahs 10-12-year-old softball club, has made several visits to read at area schools, sang Christmas carols at Shannondale Nursing Home, ran in the Lady Vol Fund Run and participated in a softball clinic for Jonie and Friends at Tyson Park. Stacey has made quite the pitch to the community with her service in the Knoxville area.

Sophomore Sylvester is the Coca-Cola Community All-American nominee from the men's track team. The Cleveland, Ohio, native has been active in the community since his arrival on campus. Marc has visited patients at UT Medical Hospital, read to children at Green Elementary and Maynard Elementary, attended the MDA's Muscle Team Dinner, served as a greeter at the finish line at the Race for the Cure, signed autographs for children at Volunteer Village and visited with the kids at the Boys and Girls Club.

Next month, we will be recognizing our other nominees and announcing the University of Tennessee national nominee. Thanks to Coca-Cola for sponsoring such a wonderful program.

"AN INCREDIBLE IMPRESSION"

By Josh Pate

Bart Graham didn't need to listen to his coach. He knew what he had to do.

The year was 1982 when the Miami Hurricanes were treading the choppy waters of Tennessee's Student Aquatic Center, deadlocked with the Vols headed into the final event of a mid-season dual swim meet. The Hurricanes were ranked in the top five with future swimming and diving legends Greg Louganis and Matt Gribble – two of the four soon-to-be Olympians on the squad – wearing the green and orange.

Tennessee was an underdog, fighting to maintain a home-pool advantage with just the 400-meter freestyle relay remaining. That's when Graham prepared to enter the water as anchor of the Vols' relay team.

Before he knew it, he could feel the water splash onto his face as he began the final leg of the race. His coach, Tennessee's legendary Ray Bussard, was on the block where Graham had just left, barking instructions to his swimmer. "At that point, he had coached me well enough that he didn't need to yell at me," Graham says. "We knew how much talent they had on that team, but there was no way on God's green earth they were going to keep up with me when we took off."

They didn't. Graham paced his leg of the relay and took the Vols to a 57-56 victory against the Hurricanes. Tennessee went on to finish 11-1 that year, and Graham went on to develop a lifetime of memories.

"The time I spent here made an indelible impression on my life," he says. "I like to refer to it as a subculture. You run in to somebody on the other side of the country and you either knew them or competed against them. It's just an experience you don't get any other place in life except maybe the military."

That same year, Graham graduated Tennessee with a degree in business administration and a concentration in finance. He still had a year of eligibility remaining, so he entered Tennessee's graduate business school, receiving his MBA in 1984.

Graham grew up in Birmingham, Ala., but he wasn't a Crimson Tide fan. Not Auburn, either. He pulled for Georgia Tech because his father, Stewart, played football for the Yellow Jackets from 1946-49 and graduated in 1951. "His line coach at Tech was Bob Woodruff, who was the athletic director at Tennessee when I came," Bart says.

The Grahams moved to Atlanta, where Bart attended high school before becoming a Volunteer. After graduating Tennessee, Graham moved back to Atlanta and worked in the financial areas of several businesses before last year being asked to be the chief financial officer of the transition firm that prepared incoming governor Sonny Perdue (pictured with Graham, right) to take office. "After we wound down the transition of the new administration, I worked in the CFO's office for the Governor for a while," Graham says. "And then he asked me to be the commissioner of revenue for the state of Georgia. So that's what I'm doing today."

As commissioner of revenue, Graham travels all across the Peach State, but his primary location is in Atlanta with his wife, Susan, and the couple's 6-year-old daughter, Madison, and year-old son, Rivers.

Despite his Alabama and Auburn heritage, along with his Georgia Tech ties, Graham is a Vol at heart. That's why he's been so active in Tennessee's effort to build a new aquatic center for the swimming and diving team, a direct result of the STEP UP Campaign.

Graham says current swimming and diving coach John Trembley approached him during talks of a new aquatic center, but Graham interrupted. "I said, 'John, without you even asking me, I want to play a role in that,'" Graham says. "I can probably count two dozen friends who are Olympic gold medallists. I wouldn't have had that if I hadn't had the opportunity to come here and swim at UT.

"I told John Trembley I wanted to have a role in that not so much because I want to give money so I can get a football ticket – I've still never asked for a season football ticket. It was more, to some degree, showing gratitude for what I came away with. The people here have given me a part of my life that I could have never paid for."

The STEP UP Campaign is a comprehensive capital campaign to raise $44.25 million for new, renovated and expanded facilities benefiting all of Tennessee's 20 men's and women's intercollegiate teams. Thanks to the STEP UP Campaign, the Allan Jones Intercollegiate Aquatic Center is scheduled for construction in 2004. The facility will house one of the fastest eight-lane competition pools in the country. A diving well will feature five platforms with heights varying from 1 to 10 meters, along with three 1-meter and 3-meter springboards. The facility, which will be able to seat up to 1800 fans, will include a weight room, training room and the University of Tennessee Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame.

Graham, however, didn't just stop with his own pledge to the STEP UP Campaign. He has been instrumental in getting other former swimmers involved in creating new opportunities for the swimming and diving program. All told, former swimmers and divers have given more than $500,000 to the Allan Jones Intercollegiate Aquatics Center.

"I think one of the most rewarding things in life is when you can go back and retrace where you've been, and have it mean something," Graham says. "It's about memories, but sometimes people confuse memories with a single sporting event or a single social event. That's not what this is about. Hopefully, it's deeper than that."

To Graham, it's much deeper.

"This isn't about just building a number of buildings," Graham says. "You can have all the buildings in the world, but if you don't have good quality people, it won't be successful anyway. That's one thing that I think is so special in our program. Other people can duplicate those relationships, but I think we can do it better than any of them."

It's one of those things that will never go away – Graham's appreciation for Tennessee and Tennessee's appreciation for Graham. When Graham was in need of a place to compete at the collegiate level, earn an education and develop lifelong relationships, Tennessee was there. Whether it was a win against Miami in 1983 or a new pool for the swimming and diving team in 2003, Graham was there.

And he knew what he had to do.

C.J. WATSON: IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

By Josh Pate

Cathy Watson tried to tell Tennessee coach Buzz Peterson he would have no luck with her son, C.J.

"You're not going to change my boy," she told Peterson more than a year ago when her son came from Las Vegas to Knoxville to become a Volunteer. "I've had him for 17 years, and he's not changed."

He's still the quiet, well-mannered young man who scorched nets while at Bishop Gorman High School as Nevada's best prep player two straight years, moved two time zones away to play college basketball and has started for the Vols since he walked on campus.

But if you want to know anything about C.J. Watson, you might as well ask somebody else.

Tennessee's media guide tells you more about Charles Akeem Watson Jr. than he does himself. He majors in child and family studies. He has a Tennessee connection with his sister, Vonyette, living in Nashville, among other relatives.

However, it doesn't tell you some of the things you can learn just by observing the 6-foot-2 point guard. The "Quiet Storm" tattoo on his right arm says he's not one to talk trash. Or talk, period. He's known best for his polite one-line answers to the media, forcing the reporters to do more talking than he does.

> "I THINK MY COMPETITIVENESS AND CONFIDENCE CHANGED. IT WENT UP A LOT. I GAINED EXPERIENCE FROM A BASKETBALL PERSPECTIVE BY LEARNING NEW THINGS ABOUT THE GAME AND HOW TO CONTROL THE TEMPO."
>
> C.J. WATSON

He's not very loud when he shouts the plays to the four other Vols on the court. He's not you're average point guard in today's pump-up-the-crowd, shiver-your-shoulders, I'm-better-than-you basketball world.

If Allen Iverson is "The Answer," then Watson is "The Question." At least he begs one to question what goes through the head of the savvy ball handler while he's running the fast break or pulling the ball out to allow the team to gather its composure.

"He doesn't get very flustered out there," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said last year. Watson had 15 points versus the Wildcats at Thompson-Boling Arena a year ago as a freshman in arguably the toughest basketball conference in America. He had plenty of reason to be flustered, though. He was forced into action as Tennessee's only pure point guard since Tony Harris left in 2001. But don't be fooled into thinking that bothered Watson.

At the conclusion of Watson's rookie year, he wound up two dishes shy of leading the conference in assists. He finished with 160, ranking seventh all-time on Tennessee's single-season list. He did, however, lead the league in minutes played at 35.8 and had two games when he played all 40 minutes. He garnered membership to the SEC's All-Freshman team selected by the coaches. CollegeInsider.com named him to its national all-freshman squad.

The season was over, but the year wasn't. Watson made the USA Junior World Championship Team that took gold at the Global Games in Dallas and finished fifth at the FIBA World Junior Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece.

And now – finally – he's a sophomore, recalling what a former UT basketball coach, the mild-mannered Kevin O'Neill, once said: "The best thing about freshmen is that they become sophomores." In Watson's defense, he was pretty good as a frosh, but knows he can get better.

"Now I know how to play and what to do," Watson says nonchalantly, as if he were clueless last season. "I know how to play other teams. I know the little things that help get me through games.

"I think my competitiveness and confidence changed. It went up a lot. I gained experience from a basketball perspective by learning new things about the game and how to control the tempo."

Watson was one of three players to start all of UT's first 13 games. He ranks third in scoring. His assist-to-turnover ratio is nearly 3-to-1. Percentage-wise, he's Tennessee's best 3-point shooter. He's been the complete package all season. He's had to be.

Watson is considered a veteran. Only junior Brandon Crump has played more minutes in a Tennessee uniform. The two entered this season as the only players on the squad with a

year's experience on The Hill. And it's shown.

"We had problems guarding C.J. Watson," said Wofford coach Mike Young after Tennessee beat his Terriers 81-70 in this season's opener. "We won't see anybody in our league (Southern Conference) with his size and strength this year."

He's got the finesse and flashy style of NBA players, but not the noise.

Like against an out-manned Citadel squad, when Watson drove the lane, looked and moved right, but dished left with one flick of his wrist for an assist and a teammate's easy jam. It forced onlookers to gasp as if Magic himself had dished to Kareem for an elevating dunk. (There's a reason Watson wears No. 32, you know.) But while Magic would have shown that trademark smile, Watson was a stone.

It was that game against the Bulldogs that Watson appeared to have the most fun thus far in his second season as Tennessee's point man. He was dishing left and right, penetrating only to fire a bullet no-look dish for a UT basket. Of course, everyone wearing orange had fun that December night with the Vols walking out with a 50-point win.

Or like against UNC-Asheville, when Tennessee players lined up in the wrong positions on in-bounds plays, unnoticed by the average fan. It happened more than once, but Watson didn't call attention to the misalignment. "I just wish he would have jerked them by the shirt collar and put them in the right spot," Peterson says. "But that's not C.J. He's probably just going to stand there and quietly tell them to move somewhere else."

In just his second season Watson is showing signs of being the type of player Peterson and his staff believed he would become. He is a steadying force on the court

Peterson, however, nearly accomplished his goal by cracking the lock on Watson's emotional safe when, during a foul shot, a small conversation between the coach and player nearly broke out into full laughter during the 24-point win against those other Bulldogs from Georgia.

When the foul shot was released, though, Watson's smile was replaced with his game face.

There's more to him than the lone tattoo would suggest. It's just that no one will know what's inside unless he wants them to know. Just like his mother said.

"Boy, she's right," Peterson says of Cathy Watson. "I thought I could change him, but he's just a quiet person."

Quiet, but not silent. Like when Watson catches a rebound and slices diagonally across the jump circle to dish a perfect assist for a 3-pointer. Or when he sinks a long ball of his own from the corner to put the Vols up by one. Or when he drives the congested lane of defenders and finishes with a jump-stop and a layup off the glass. It's those moments when he's saying a lot. His actions speak volumes. T

A REAL TROOPER

By Tom Mattingly

Tennessee's newest assistant coach is a real "Trooper," Trooper Taylor, that is. He signed on in February to replace Woody McCorvey, who resigned Dec. 9 to take the offensive coordinator's position at Mississippi State.

Taylor is a native of Cuero, Texas, population 7124, located between Houston and San Antonio, "with a Dairy Queen and a stop sign. It's the turkey capital of the world," he said. He also noted that the high school football team was called the "Gobblers."

Taylor said it was a great town. "It's one of those places where you don't have to lock your doors and everybody takes care of everybody. The biggest crime there may be running a red light. That's where I learned the lessons of character, character being defined as what you represent."

The unusual first name came from one of those heart-warming stories every family seems to have. Trooper was one of 16 children. When he was born, his uncle, then in the Army at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, saw the youngster as the only baby in the nursery crying. His uncle said, "he was just like my troopers, always crying."

He said his father was good with it, the name stuck and proudly adorns his birth certificate.

Taylor, who turns 34 in March, just completed his fifth coaching season at Tulane. He has mentored the wide receivers under head coach Chris Scelfo since 1999 and brings a successful resume to Knoxville.

"I'm definitely excited about being a part of the Volunteer family," Taylor said. "I'm looking forward to being a part of a new system and that Volunteer tradition, which is winning. It's exciting both for my family and me.

"It's a great opportunity to work with Coach Fulmer. He's well respected in the coaching business. It's an opportunity to learn a new system and that will help open some doors. Having Coach Fulmer's name on your resume can certainly help you."

Taylor, who will coach running backs at Tennessee, coached four Tulane receivers into the National Football League during his tenure in New Orleans.

He had the nation's top receiving trio in 2001 in Adrian Burnette, Kerwin Cook and Terrell Harris, who combined to lead the country with 2,384 receiving yards on 185 catches. In 1999, Burnett and JaJuan Dawson were the only Division I-A receiving pair to each gain more than 1,000 yards.

"At Tulane, we passed to set up the run," he said. "Here, we run to set up the pass."

He relished the challenges he faced at Tennessee.

"For me, it's a step up being able to coach and recruit in the SEC — obviously a coach's dream," he said. "You want to be at the highest level. Everybody talks about it being the No. 1 conference in the country and you want to be a part of that.

"It gives you a chance to go into a home and be successful. At Tulane, we were trying to break into a prospect's top 5. Here, you might already be in his top 3."

There's one interesting connection between Taylor and a member of the current Tennessee staff. That would explain why Pat Washington, a former Baylor coach, calls him "Buzzard."

"When Pat came to Tennessee, I took his position and his office, " Taylor said. "I was sitting at his desk, recruiting and doing a newspaper interview and he hadn't left yet. He came in to get some of his belongings, saw me and that's what he said."

"FOR ME, IT'S A STEP UP BEING ABLE TO COACH AND RECRUIT IN THE SEC — OBVIOUSLY A COACH'S DREAM. YOU WANT TO BE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT IT BEING THE NO. 1 CONFERENCE IN THE COUNTRY AND YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT."

TROOPER TAYLOR

A 1992 Baylor graduate, Taylor finished his playing career as the school's career leader in kickoff returns (53) and return yardage (1,063). After helping the Bears to the 1991 Copper Bowl and completing his degree, Taylor joined the coaching staff at his alma mater.

He spent two seasons as a graduate assistant before being named wide receivers coach in 1994. He then coached Baylor's secondary for two years before returning to the wide receivers for one year.

Before signing on at Tulane, Taylor spent the 1998 season as running backs coach at New Mexico.

Asked about his wedding, which took place on the 50-yard line at the Baylor's Floyd Casey Stadium, Taylor acted like it was at the biggest church in Waco. Given the reverence football holds in Texas, it might have been. No big deal.

"Coach Grant Teaff always said, 'Don't leave the field until you've gotten better.' I'm a better person with her as a part of my life."

There were a few impediments to her becoming Mrs. Taylor, however. "Her mom

wanted a church wedding," Taylor said.

"I remember telling her about something in scripture that says where two or three are gathered in my name, there's church. It's not bricks or a building. She said I was right.

"I was a sophomore at Baylor and, during practice, I saw this young lady running the stands. I was watching and my coach got unhappy. He told me that I could run to the top of the stands. I did and waited for her, but she wouldn't give me her name.

"When we did get married on the field, my wife had to walk 50 yards to the center of the field. There were 300 people there, with my teammates and my brother, her track team and sorority."

Not to mention a few famous names. "Santana Dotson, who played for Green Bay, James Francis, who played for Cincinnati, Robert Blackmon, who played for Seattle and Robin Jones, who played for the Falcons, were all there," he said. That was May 22, 1992.

It closed an intriguing week for Evi, the former Evi (short for Evelyn) Crosby of Harbor City, Calif., now Mrs. Taylor, who, in a four-day period, participated in the Southwest Conference track meet, graduated with a degree in social work and married Taylor.

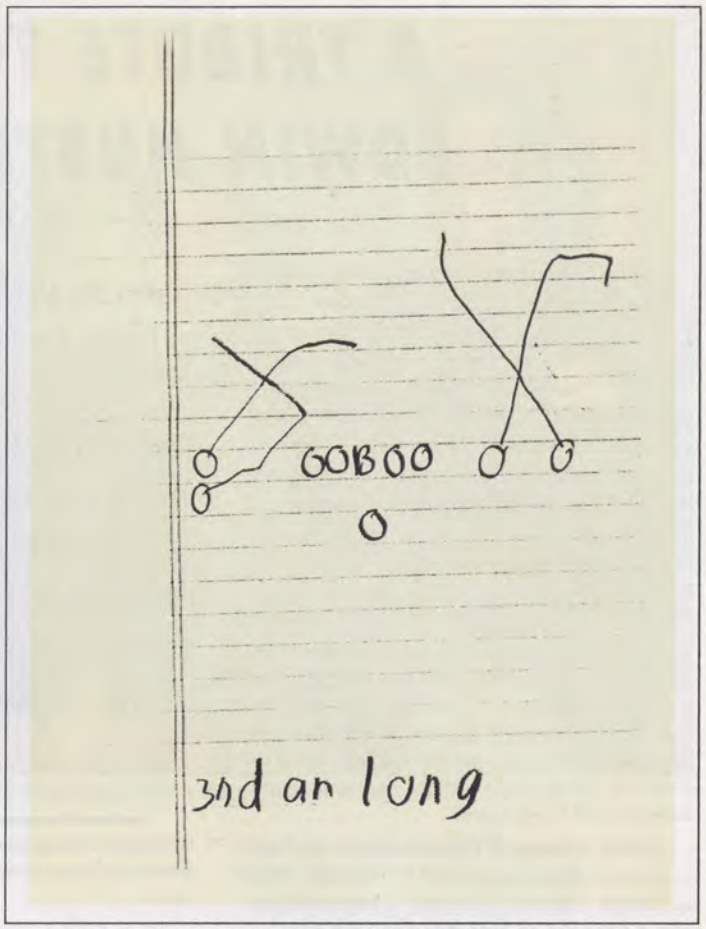
"She's from California, and was recruited to Baylor, so she understands what I do," Taylor said. "Her dad and her brothers played college football. I'm sending her a media guide, so she can get acquainted with our players."

Evi is still in New Orleans, where she is a social worker. She'll be in Knoxville in May. They have two children, a son, Blaise, 7, and a daughter, Starr, 4.

Here's one important note. Taylor took a phone call during the conversation. One comment was too good to pass up. "I've learned 'Rocky Top,'" he said. "I have it down pat." That's important.

Pictured with this story is a little reminder from his son, a coaching tip, if you will. Blaise told his dad to suggest this one to Coach Fulmer. It's written for third-and-long, and serves as Blaise's contribution to the cause.

Sometimes great truths come from even the youngest fans. T



Blaise Taylor's contribution to the Tennessee Vol playbook, delivered by his dad on his arrival in Knoxville.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWIN HUSTER

By Tom Mattingly

In the history of every organization, there are those visionaries who dream great dreams and are fortunate enough to live to see their dreams reach fruition. There are those whose actions 30, 40 or even 50 years ago or longer, live on and help shape the landscape as we know it today.

One such man was Edwin Court Huster Jr., who for 34 years carefully crafted the development of the Vol Radio Network, an entity that is the envy of colleges across the United States.

That's why the news hit home so hard when the phone calls came to the Mattingly household Saturday night, Jan. 24, with the news that Edwin had died of a heart attack earlier that afternoon. He was 60. The next night, at the Tennessee-Louisville game, the broadcast went in just as Edwin would have wanted.

To fully understand Edwin's impact, you have to go back to the beginning -- in the late 1940s -- when a couple of visionaries, Lindsey Nelson and a Knoxville ad exec also named Huster -- Edwin's father -- barnstormed the state to begin a statewide radio network for the University of Tennessee football program. In later years, the same concept would be applied to basketball.

"EVERYONE AT THE VOL NETWORK MISSES EDWIN VERY MUCH. HE ALWAYS PUT THE UNIVERSITY, ITS FANS AND THE STATIONS FIRST IN ALL HIS BUSINESS DEALINGS. I WILL MISS WORKING WITH HIM BUT, MOST OF ALL, I WILL MISS HIS FRIENDSHIP AND SEEING HIM AT EVERY GAME. HE WAS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE VOL NETWORK."

Bob Kesling

That was the beginning of Nelson's and Huster's dream, a dream they both lived to see become reality.

When Lindsey left Tennessee to go on to a career in which he became a nationally known broadcaster, heading first to Dallas then to a career on the major networks, Huster Sr. continued the process of building the Vol Network into one of the nation's finest in college broadcasting.

Here is a youthful Edwin Huster in the Vol Network booth at Vanderbilt sometime in the early 1980s with current "Voice of the Vols," Bob Kesling.

In 1970, Huster Sr. passed the torch to his son, who took it and ran with it for 34 years.

Today, the Vol Network stands in tribute to the hopes, aspirations and hard work of Lindsey Nelson and two men named Edwin Huster.

Like his father, Edwin was a "Mr. Inside," the man who crafted the network's infrastructure. Edwin followed capably in his father's path and likewise earned the respect of thoughtful people everywhere.

"Edwin Huster's strength was his ability to maintain a good relationship with the sponsors," John Ward, "Voice of the Vols" from 1968-98 and godfather to Edwin's daughter Courtney, said. "He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed communicating on a personal level."

"EDWIN WAS A NATURAL. HE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY AND, WHAT'S MORE, HE KNEW IT WAS EASIER TO MAINTAIN A SPONSOR THAN TO GET A NEW ONE."

For me, the relationship dates to some time in 1987 or 1988, when Edwin asked if I would be interested in spotting for the Vol Network in the late moments of Vol football games on the road so Bob Kesling could get to the field and prepare

Edwin Huster's relationship with John Ward and Bill Anderson spanned nearly 30 years.

for the post-game interviews. From 1989 to 1998, I worked with Edwin and the Vol Network as the road spotter.

One night at Georgia, maybe in 1994 or 1996, I went down to the locker room, delivered the stats and came back to what I thought was the Vol Network booth. I almost sat down next to the legendary Bulldog broadcaster Larry Munson and found that didn't work.

I finally got to the booth and found Mike Keith in my seat, who seemed to be relieved when I showed up.

Edwin asked, "Where have you been?" I told him I been on the elevator and in darn near every booth on that level of the press box. He suggested I get a map and be on time the next time and that was that.

You didn't want to disappoint Edwin (or Ward, for that matter). It's hard to explain, but they demanded as much of themselves as they did of each person involved in the production. When I blew a spot, a tackle identification, I felt bad, because I believed I was letting them down.

Edwin had a delightful sense of humor, a bit on the sharp side, perhaps, but delightful nonetheless, passed out in liberal doses at Long's Drug Store, on an airplane or a bus on the road or here in the halls of Stokely.

When Jim Haslam's son, Bill, ran for and was elected mayor of Knoxville last fall, Edwin went campaigning on his behalf door-to-door somewhere in north Knoxville. It was a bit more than he bargained for. I saw him in the halls of Stokely one afternoon looking fatigued, maybe a bit haggard.

I asked him about what was wrong and he said it was the campaigning. "I could never run for office," he said. "That was as hard as anything I've ever done. I knew I'd eventually have to pay for all those trips on the Haslam plane, but not this way."

I gathered from Edwin, a close friend of the senior Haslam, that he was proud of what Bill had done and the part he had in it.

Fans listen to the games and it sounds so seamless and well done, but it's all a product of leadership from the top, from Edwin and Ward, now from Kesling. No one really knows the preparation and concentration it takes to produce a day's worth of Vol Network programming each Saturday and into Sunday through the taping and video uplink of the coaches show. It all worked because Edwin and John (and now Bob) set the tone.

Every time I step in the Vol Network booth at Neyland Stadium or at various venues on the road, I feel the tradition, the dedication, the desire to excel that is expected from everyone involved, from the on-the-air personnel, to the producer, to the statistician, to the spotter, to everyone with a role to play in making the radio broadcast work for uncounted Tennesseans wherever they are.

To this day, the Husters are considered by many in the business to be a leaders in doing what many people now see as automatic, developing a network that initially spanned the state and today, with the Internet, now spans the globe.

Edwin Huster with proteges Mike Keith (left) and Steve Early (center).

When all is said and done, that will be Edwin's legacy.

"EDWIN, YOU CAN REST EASY KNOWING YOU DID EVERYTHING RIGHT. YOU NEVER OVERLOOKED ANY DETAILS. YOU LAUNCHED A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF CAREERS. YOU HAD THE MOST FRIENDS. YOU COMMANDED THE MOST LOYALTY. YOU WERE THE ULTIMATE FAMILY MAN. YOU WERE THE BEST BOSS. YOU WERE THE ENVY OF ALL. THE NUMBERS ALL ADD UP, MY FRIEND. YOU EXCEEDED BUDGET AGAIN."

Steve Early

It's been more than 50 years since those first tentative steps were taken in establishing the Vol Radio Network. History will record that Edwin Huster, Sr., and Lindsey Nelson helped build a product that has caught the imagination of the Vol fans wherever they are. It's an indispensable part of life as we know it. The younger Huster likewise carried that torch.

The technology of sports journalism may have changed over the years, but one thing remains the same from the infancy of the Vol Network. Simply put, it's a brooding insistence on quality, an insistence on excellence, an insistence on professionalism that is as real today as it was back in the late 1940s.

I value my experiences with the Vol Network because the people who are part of it have made a commitment ... to excellence ... to doing things right ... to the University of Tennessee. It all began with men who were both named Edwin Huster.

Here's one final tribute to Edwin from one of his closest colleagues, the Vol Network's Steve Early.

"I always said in my next life I would like to return as Edwin Huster. I meant it as the supreme compliment," Early wrote of Huster.

"Edwin, you can rest easy knowing you did everything right. You never overlooked any details. You launched a countless number of careers. You had the most friends. You commanded the most loyalty. You were the ultimate family man. You were the best boss. You were the envy of all. The numbers all add up, my friend. You exceeded budget again."

These were the life and times of Edwin Court Huster Jr. The twig was not bent far from the tree.

Respectfully and thoughtfully submitted. T

FOOD CITY AT THE HALF PRESENTS THE ZOOPERSTARS

The wild and crazy, uniquely costumed and named inflatable characters, the ZOOperstars returned to Thompson-Boling Arena for the second year and entertained and energized fans when the Vols hosted Kentucky. ZOOperstar characters Dick Flytale, Stallion Iverson, Rusty Walrus, Shark McGuire and Peyton Manatee performed dance routines and interacted with fans.

Be sure to catch all the action! The ZOOperstars return to Knoxville when the men host Mississippi Feb. 18, and when the Lady Vols host Florida Feb. 19. Food City at the Half sponsors the unique half-time entertainment and pays the appearance fees for groups like the ZOOperstars to entertain fans. In 2003 the ZOOperstars made over 175 appearances across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. For more information about the ZOOperstars visit www.zooperstars.com. Let us know what you think about the ZOOperstars' performance. Call the Marketing Office at (865) 974-1734.

BRING YOUR GROUP OR ENJOY A BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH THE VOLS

Experience our game! Form a team of family, friends, co-workers, church members or civic club members and cheer on the Vols basketball team! Group tickets are available for all home games. Purchase 30 or more tickets and receive reserved seats at half price.

Celebrate your birthday with the Vols! Receive 12 reserved seat tickets, three pizzas with a topping of your choice, 12 Coca-Cola soft drinks, one autographed basketball and a PA announcement at halftime for $175.

IT'S BASEBALL TIME IN TENNESSEE

The baseball Vols swing into action Feb. 13. Season tickets are on sale now. Get into the game by purchasing club seats, chairback seats or general admission season tickets and enjoy Tennessee baseball all season long. SEC opponents Auburn, Kentucky, LSU, Vanderbilt and Florida are scheduled to come to town this year as the Vols host an exciting slate of SEC baseball action.

Form a team of family, friends, clients, employees, church members or civic club members and take in a game. Purchase 30 or more tickets and receive the group rate of $2 per ticket.

Celebrate your birthday with the Vols! Receive 12 game tickets, three pizzas with a topping of your choice, 12 Coca-Cola soft drinks, one autographed baseball, a player or coach visit, one special birthday greeting on the videoboard and a Happy Birthday PA announcement for $90!

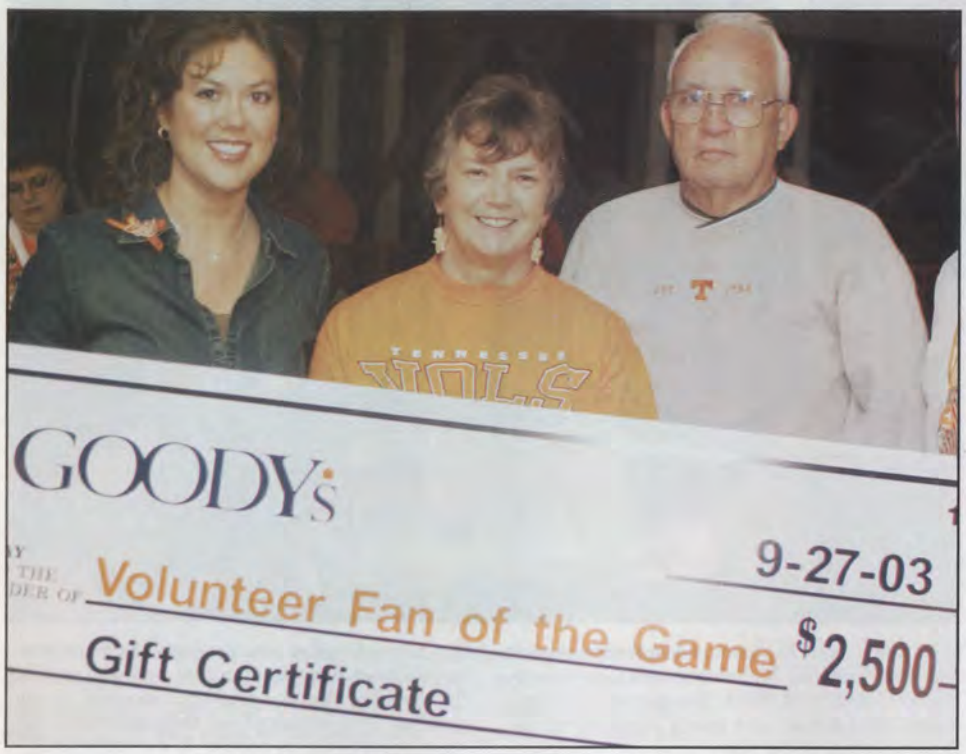
TO ORDER TICKETS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE CALL (865) 974-1734.

MARKETING BLITZ...

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO JR. VOLS MEMBERS

Ryder Lee Denney
Halan Scott Denney
Alex Williams
Caroline Cravens
Paul Lowe
Matthew McFarling
Ian Collins
Stephen Lamb
Ashley Jo Adams
Lucas Patton
Jeremy Lloyd
Audrey Huddleston
Rex Huddleston
Grant Bodie
Nick Jacobs
Seth Ellison
Ben Hubbell
Jordan Goodman
Brandon Long
Matthew Blentlinger
Taylor Stansberry
Dawson Day
Tyler Corbitt
Andrew Wesley Hatcher
Logan Corum
Tyler Anderson
Riley McKinney
Hannah Robinson
Bronnen Amos
Reagan Amos
Sara Beth Massengale

RICH IN TRADITION: GOODY'S FAMILY CLOTHING AND TENNESSEE ATHLETICS



Phyllis Smith (left), of Oak Ridge, won the $2500 Goody's gift prize as part of the 25 Millionth Fan contest prior to the Tennessee-South Carolina game.

Knoxville's Goody's Family Clothing and the University of Tennessee athletic department both share a rich history. During 2003, Goody's celebrated their 50th anniversary by hosting a variety of events and sales. Goody's incorporated its 50th anniversary into its football game program advertisement with the theme, "Celebrating 50 years of excellence, on and off the field."

The ad featured a Tennessee football player from each decade since Goody's opening in 1953.

Goody's is a retailer of moderately priced apparel for women, men and children. The company operates 335 stores in 18 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

As a corporate partner, Goody's proudly supports the Volunteers through signage at Neyland Stadium and courtside signage in Thompson-Boling Arena. Goody's radio spots run during all Vol Network broadcasts. During Vol Network radio broadcasts, Goody's sponsors a feature called "Goody's Southeastern Conference Standings."

Print ads in the football and basketball game day programs promote Goody's relationship with Tennessee athletics. During last football season, the Knoxville News Sentinel's Vol Reports featured Goody's advertisements with the Tennessee cheer and dance teams promoting Goody's Tennessee merchandise.

This baseball season, Goody's will have a baseball videoboard tri-vision advertising panel on the new JumboTron at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. "Goody's salutes the university, its winning tradition, and its fans — without a doubt, the greatest in the Southeast," said Kristin Macht, Goody's public relations manager. "We are delighted to be associated with the high standard of excellence set by the institution and its athletic departments. As Goody's embarks on its next 50 years in business, we look forward to continuing a great relationship with Tennessee athletics."

Goody's was one of several Tennessee corporate partners to sponsor the "Neyland Stadium 25 Millionth Fan" promotion. Phyllis Smith, the "Fan of the Game" for the South Carolina game Sept. 27, received a $2,500 gift certificate from Goody's, as well as a 25-inch television courtesy of Philips, a $250 Big Orange checking account from First Tennessee Bank and $250 worth of gift certificates from Bread Box, Kroger and World Travel. The "Fan of the Game" for each of the other home games received a $250 gift certificate from Goody's.

"We are truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such an established company that promotes the same family image and family atmosphere that the athletic department strives to promote at athletic events," said Chip Bryant, assistant athletic director for marketing. "The University of Tennessee athletic department recognizes and thanks Goody's Family Clothing for its partnership and loyal support of the Volunteers."

Goody's courtside ad at Thompson-Boling Arena, right next to Buzz Peterson and the Vol bench.

KARA LAWSON NCAA TOP VIII WINNER

The Lady Vols basketball had two missions, Sunday, Jan. 11. First was dispatching Mississippi State 61-53 that afternoon in Starkville. Mission accomplished. Then it was for a quick flight to Nashville to see former teammate Kara Lawson receive the 2004 NCAA Top VIII Award that evening. It was a time to honor one of their own, who has achieved great things on and off the court. Mission accomplished.

The Today's Top VIII Awards provide the NCAA the opportunity to honor eight outstanding senior student-athletes of the preceding calendar year.

Lawson, a native of Alexandria, Va., was one of two SEC representatives on the Top VIII list. She closed a distinguished Lady Vol career in the 2003 national championship game against Connecticut last spring. Peyton Manning, you might remember, won the award in 1997.

Lawson joined Alice (Duesing) Nightingale, Lake Superior State University (basketball), Andrew Hilliard, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) (football and track and field), Craig Krenzel, Ohio State University (football), Theresa Kulikowski, University of Utah (gymnastics), Eli Manning, University of Mississippi (football), Kristin Sterner, University of Alabama (gymnastics) and Leoandra Willis Rogers, UCLA (gymnastics) in receiving the prestigious awards.

A 2003 NCAA Woman of the Year state winner and top 10 finalist, Lawson shot her way into Tennessee women's basketball history as the Lady Volunteers' all-time leader in 3-point field goals made, 3-point field goals attempted and free-throw percentage.

She also is ranked second in all-time games played and games started. Named the 2003 College Sports Television Network Player of the Year, Lawson was also the 2003 Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award and a Wade Trophy finalist.

A finance major, Lawson was named to the Kodak/Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the United States Basketball Women's Association All-America first teams. Lawson has been a first-team Academic All-America selection and was Academic All-Southeastern Conference in 2001, 2002 and 2003. She also was named as the 2003 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholars Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

In 2003, Lawson was designated as the Southeastern Conference community-service award winner and was one of the three University of Tennessee Community Service Athletes of the Year, joining Luke Hochaver (baseball) and C.J. Watson (men's basketball) as awardees honored by the CHAMPS/Life Skills program.

Lawson also served as president of Tennessee's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and has been he has been a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since 2001. Serving as a volunteer at Sam E. Hill and West Hills Elementary Schools since 2000, Lawson has directed sports clinics for the Girl Scouts and served as a speaker for numerous campus organizations, events and elementary schools.

Here's what Lawson had to say in her remarks representing the Top VIII Award winners:

"On behalf of my fellow award winners, I would like to thank the NCAA for their tireless work to make the student-athlete experience the best it can be. I would also like to thank the NCAA Honors committee for our selections as Top VIII honorees. To have our names etched into this amazing fraternity is a very special moment for each of us, especially when you look across the country at the number and success of other student-athletes.

"During our collegiate careers we have represented our institutions in an extraordinary fashion. Whether it was in our respective playing arenas, in the classroom, or in the community, we have excelled. This would not have been possible without the help of countless people who gave their all on our behalf.

"To our families, who provided the foundation on which we base our decisions and who instilled the discipline that has made us successful. To our coaches, who enhanced our skills as athletes but, more importantly, as people. To our teammates, who taught us that the strength of the wolf really does lie in the pack. To our institutions, who afforded us the opportunity and support to excel in all areas. We thank you.

"There is something unique that lies within each of these athletes. Something knitted in their fabric that allows them to demand excellence in every phase of their life, to refuse to be average. It is this trait, when manifested, that wins championships, that alters the landscape of our communities, that inspires others and ultimately leads to success. That type of success is a choice, a commitment made every day before every decision. I applaud my fellow honorees for making a concerted effort to do just that.

"As leaders on our teams and campuses, we were charged with the responsibility of helping others realize their potential. Leadership is appreciated, respected, but most importantly, it is necessary. Our new challenge is to carefully nurture the seeds that have been sown during our formative and college years. Not only continuing to grow ourselves, but planting more seeds within our respective communities.

"I hope our legacy, as we move on to the next phase of our lives, will be one of service, excellence and leadership, those same qualities we were able to display during our collegiate careers."

Selection was based on athletics ability and achievement (50 percent), academic achievement (25 percent) and character, leadership and activities (25 percent).

CHEMISTRY EQUATES TO DANCE TEAM PLACING THIRD

By Donnell Field

After months of practice, changes in choreography, costume fittings, exhibitions and rehearsals, and spending Christmas beak on campus while other students went home, the University of Tennessee dance team strutted its stuff at the Universal Dance Association (UDA) Championships in Orlando, Fla., as part of the UCA/UDA National Championships Jan. 16-18.

The third-place finish was a great accomplishment for 15 young women who put their talents and skills to the test, and passed with flying colors.

It may not have been their goal, as everyone wants to win the coveted national title, but to finish in that position considering all of their competition is truly special. It was another glowing testament to the university's commitment to excellence in everything it does.

"As head coach and coordinator for the three spirit teams," said Joy Postell, "I am most impressed by the dedication and perseverance that each athlete displays. Competition affords so many opportunities for these young athletes, not to mention the priceless memories."

This year the dance championships consisted of 75 teams competing in three divisions derived from their NCAA classification. As for the cheer side, more than 125 teams competed in the championships in eight different divisions dependent on the type of squad and their NCAA classification based on the size of their athletic program.

Prior to the competition, the ladies went through rigorous summer practices and preparation for this season as they found a choreographer and laid the foundation for their routine. While tweaking the routine, they also made preparations for their video for evaluation and the opportunity to make it to nationals. All entrants were judged based on skill level and styles and through a point system are awarded spots in the national competition in Orlando.

This year's squad received its highest score since competing in nationals under the current UDA format.

This year the squad was led by four seniors who have contributed greatly in their time on The Hill. Under the leadership of pom captain Kelley Eidenmuller, along with nationals captains Valerie Baxter, Anna Clare Snyder and Lindsey Bailey, the squad has placed in the top 10 all four years, with no lower than a sixth-place finish.

"This year our team had unbelievable chemistry," said Baxter. "We didn't depend on an authority figure. Instead we looked internally to each other for support. I had complete confidence in every team member, knowing that everyone had the heart and talent to pull it off. And we did, first in the SEC and third in the nation, which is not a bad way to end my college dance team career."

Tennessee squads in competition were well supported by Tennessee fans that traveled from around the country to watch the Vols compete.

For the past several years, dance team members and their parents have been treated to a special dinner at teammate Christia Brinkley's home (daughter of Charlie and Sherry Brinkley) just outside of Orlando. Again, the Brinkley's were super host as more than 50 people attended the event.

The action kicked off for Tennessee as the dance team and Smokey performed Saturday, Jan. 17. Tennessee was one of three schools in the country to compete in all three categories in Orlando.

Smokey got Tennessee on the board first with his fifth-place performance in the mascot competition. Smokey went against 19 other collegiate mascots. Three of the top five spots went to SEC school members.

Twenty-one dance teams were trimmed to 12 for Sunday's final. Tennessee performed well on the final day, only to be outdone by national champion Minnesota and runner-up Kansas.

The Vols were one of 16 teams in the finals, and Tennessee's young squad performed valiantly for their sixth-place finish. A perfect routine was worthy of a top-three finish, but there is such a fine line in the top 10 that one or two small mistakes can make a big difference.

When the day was complete Tennessee was one of only three schools in Division I-A to place in the top 10 in all categories.

"Perhaps I am most proud of the the fact that unlike other college participants, all three of my University of Tennessee spirit teams repeatedly place in the top six," said Postell. "The high placements in each category of cheer, dance, and mascot make me proud to be their leader and is indicative of the fine athletes that chose to partake in our demanding programs. Not only are these spirit members afforded the opportunity to serve as ambassadors of the University, lead 107,000 fans in Neyland stadium and the orange nation in Thompson-Boling Arena, but to experience the competitiveness of nationals and to view their results when televised nationally on ESPN."

This year's squad was led by four seniors who have been with the program since they were freshman. The third-place finish gives them four top-six finishes in their four years, highlighted by a second-place finish in 2000

NEW ON THE BLOCK

he's moving from the often franetic world of public relations in Nashville to the equally frenetic world of the UT athletic department, where she's become the department's director of public relations.

Her name is Tiffany Carpenter and this is her story.

That announcement was made Jan. 10, through the following release:

Tiffany Utsman Carpenter has joined the University of Tennessee Athletics Department as the Director of Public Relations. In this newly created position, she will develop and implement public relations strategy for the athletics department.

Carpenter, a native of Bristol, Tenn., previously served as account supervisor at Atkinson Public Relations in Nashville, where she was responsible for overall public relations planning and execution for various clients.

"We are thrilled that somebody with Tiffany's experience in all aspects of public relations has made the decision to join our athletics department," said University of Tennessee Director of Athletics Mike Hamilton. "Tiffany will help us in our efforts to continue to stress customer service and put emphasis on the many positive things that go on with student-athletes everyday on our campus."

Prior to joining Atkinson, she served as an account executive at The Ingram Group in Nashville where she handled local and national media relations, event management and project coordination.

During her career, she has assisted with the launch of the Nashville Predators and served as community and media relations advisor for the American Basketball League's Nashville Noise.

Carpenter is a 1996 graduate of the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

COMMENT: She was at work three days later and found quarters near Haywood Harris and Doug Dickey downstairs at Stokely Center and immediately began throwing herself into her new position, listening more than she talked, it seemed, and getting acquainted.

"I took the media guides home and started putting names with faces," she said, noting that not everyone looked like their picture.

She admits that getting everyone's named matched with a face is a bit trying, but she's working on it. "Maybe they could wear their nametags for a while," she said, referring to the staff IDs worn at Vol basketball games.

She went through the normal first-day paperwork and sat in on a sports information and broadcasting staff meeting that Jan. 12 day.

Broadcasting's Hillary Burress had her in tow, taking her from office to office, so she could meet the people whose visages she had studied so carefully the night before.

Carpenter said she had missed only four home football since graduation in 1996 and had postponed graduation to sneak in an extra football season.

When asked about the challenges ahead, she had this to say

"The challenges," she said, "are for coverage and the entertainment dollar. There are three professional teams in the state now.

"You also have the challenge of media being 24 hours a day. Anybody can start a rumor on a chat board, then it's on sports talk and then it's around the state or the world in about an hour.

"The opportunity is to find ways to use media to get our message out. That's also our responsibility."

She met extensively with upper management and was impressed with what she found.

"I was really impressed with Mike Hamilton and Joan Cronan and what they wanted to accomplish," she said. "I like the business-like way Mike runs the department."

Now safely ensconced in her office, she's looking to meet with opinion leaders outside of the athletic department and more of her fellow colleagues.

"I want to gauge the public perceptions of the athletic department," she said, noting that she was tremendously impressed with the Salute to Excellence the Lady Vols had held Jan. 17

"I want to build on the reputation of the athletic department with various publics in the community in Knoxville and beyond," she said.

She thought the Big Orange Fan Reception in Kingsport was a "good grass roots effort to reach the fans and let them know how they could get tickets."

The words "crisis management" appeared twice on her resume and that was a logical topic to ask about.

"I haven't had my first crisis," Carpenter said, "but I'm prepared for it. Organizations have to reach different publics in different ways. There are more than you can name. I have found a new respect for crisis management. "

When asked about her "personal style," she said she really didn't have one, and that what she thought was her style was "complementing the styles of the people around me. Everybody has a different style and I try to incorporate that into the way I deal with them."

So she now begins the seemingly daunting task of assembling a public relations plan for UTAD. She may speak softly and calmly, but she has to the potential to make a major impact on UT athletics in the years to come. T

By Donnell Field

Orange Nation to Begin New Era in Relations Between Students and Athletics

The next time you visit Thompson-Boling Arena for a men's basketball game you may notice something a little different – the student section has gotten a boost of energy.

When Mike Hamilton took over as men's athletic director earlier this year, he wanted to find a better way for the athletic department to interact with the student body. Over the years there have been several organizations within the school that have filled this role, but there was a feeling that a void was not being filled and our students needed to be more involved with Tennessee athletics. What has emerged is the "Orange Nation."

"We wanted to get our students more excited about Tennessee athletics and create an environment of energy and enthusiasm," said Hamilton. "Orange Nation was formed to create a home-field advantage for Tennessee."

The Orange Nation is not a new concept for UT. It's actually the re-invention of the VASF Collegiate Club to increase the number of students involved.

"We wanted to provide our pep club with a more dynamic name, better benefits, and more access to the athletic department to increase student enthusiasm and create a more competitive environment," said Assistant Director for Development David Blackburn.

"As the donor base that supports many of the financial needs of the men's and women's athletics department grows, so should the student support."

Part of the issue at hand has been the growing number of games, especially in football where student tickets have been returned for general public sale. At the same time, due to the SGA lottery for tickets, some students were left out without getting tickets. This is where the Orange Nation comes in with a strong statement for those students whose blood truly runs Orange."

Through discussions with the SGA and the University, the athletics department has secured more tickets in prime seating for students at all home events for football and basketball. Previously, the spirit clubs were seated behind the Pride of the Southland Marching Band during football games, and in the pie-section opposite of the Tennessee bench in basketball. Now those seats will get the die-hard students closer to the action in both venues. The number of seats for the Orange Nation have increased as well. For example, 1,000 seats will be set aside for the Orange Nation for home football games.

Another way the Orange Nation is becoming more involved is the interaction between the teams and the students. Members of the Orange Nation will be able to attend practices for Vol sports as well as meet with players and coaches throughout the season. Other perks are in the works, such as free meals at certain events, football away-game travel opportunities, free T-shirts, and a big benefit is that they become VASF members and begin earning points that could help them with securing tickets and other donor benefits when they graduate.

It seems to be working. After only a few games, the excitement level has risen among the students involved, and the name change and perks are certainly attracting more students every day.

"We're fortunate to have a wonderful student body at The University of Tennessee," said Hamilton. "The Orange Nation is a way to bring the students closer to our athletic teams. Student attendance and vocal support are critical in creating a competitive advantage for our teams."

Verizon Wireless, the official wireless provider for Tennessee Athletics, sponsors the Orange Nation. T

A VISIT WITH MIKE JACKSON

By Tom Mattingly

You never know what's going on outside your door in Stokely Center, but, in this case, it was the chance to talk with Mike Jackson, the Vol guard of 1975-77 vintage, No. 25 in your program, who was in town for the Kentucky game.

Jackson, who came to Tennessee from Nashville, is now sales manager for Hansen Chrysler-Plymouth in his hometown. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Hermitage, with daughters Siobhan, Jasmyn and Taylor.

He told us that he is responsible for hiring, training and motivating his sales force. It was the motivation angle that raised the question of what he learned from his former coach Ray Mears (pictured below with Jackson at the Tennessee-Kentucky game Jan. 20), a man who seemingly wrote the book on motivation.

"I draw a lot from my experience in the Mears Era," he said, "from what he taught us on how to focus on the task at hand. It was a big lesson for me. I was young and immature when I came to Tennessee, 16 going on 17.

"What Coach Mears was doing was all new to me. He taught us how to be mentally prepared for the game. We had our quiet time at our lockers, but when that 'General Patton' music was played, we knew it was time to focus on what we had to do."

He said being mentally prepared for what's ahead is a daily deal - a priority - for him.

He remembered teammates Bernard King and Ernie Grunfeld. "I don't know of a player who could focus on the game like Bernard," he said. "It was like turning on a switch. He was a different person when it came time to play.

"Ernie had such a great mental hold on the game. He knew the game and the players. He wasn't the most talented player, but he had a great grasp of the game."

He added that it was "an honor" to have played with those guys ... and to have played at Tennessee.

"I grew up focusing on the team aspect of the game," he said. "In college basketball today, that's sometimes a missing part of the game."

Jackson remembered a game at Alabama in 1976, when King and Grunfeld fouled out and he had to carry the load through a couple of overtimes. It was a shining moment in a career of such moments.

"I remember spots of games," he recalled. "There was something about playing Kentucky. We had their number back then. I remember a game where Dale Brown at LSU tried to play us with a triangle and two on Bernard and Ernie and we led by 20 at the half. I remember I had 20 points that night. It's a tribute to Coach Mears. He was an innovator, a man who was far ahead of his time."

It's hard not to think about Mike Jackson in those days, dropping in jumpers from the elbow at the foul line, knocking shots home from the baseline and generally making a nuisance of himself to other teams who gave too much attention to King and Grunfeld.

Mike Jackson, No. 25 in those days, could play the game ... and play it well.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Amateurism and Tryouts

Tryouts With Professional Teams

It is permissible for a prospective student-athlete or a currently enrolled student-athlete to try out with a professional team, provided the following conditions are met:

Prior to collegiate enrollment: A student-athlete remains eligible in a sport even though, prior to enrollment in a collegiate institution, the student-athlete may have tried out with a professional athletics team in a sport or received not more than one expense-paid visit from each professional team (or a combine including that team), provided such a visit did not exceed 48 hours and any payment or compensation in connection with the visit was not in excess of actual and necessary expenses. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time.

Tryout after collegiate enrollment: A student-athlete shall not try out with a professional athletics team in a sport or permit a professional athletics team to conduct medical examinations during any part of the academic year (i.e., from the beginning of the fall term through completion of the spring term, including any intervening vacation period) while enrolled in a collegiate institution as a regular student in at least a minimum full-time academic load, unless the student-athlete has exhausted eligibility in that sport. The student-athlete may try out with a professional organization in a sport during the summer or during the academic year while not a full-time student, provided the student-athlete does not receive any form of expenses or other compensation from the professional organization.

Please note that during a tryout, an individual may not take part in any outside competition (games or scrimmages) as a representative of that professional team.

Please contact the certifying institution or conference for additional information. You also may contact the NCAA membership services staff at 317/917-6222 should you have further questions.

JABARI GREER: FINDING HIS PLACE

By Tom Mattingly

Since 1965, former Vol track star Ed Murphey, the SEC champion in the mile run in 1955, 1956 and 1957 and the 1956 SEC cross country winner, presents an award for the outstanding performance from the previous year's track season.

The winner of the Ed Murphey Award for 2003 is Jabari Greer, who, in just his first season of indoor track competition, won the NCAA 60-meter hurdles championship with a school-record time of 7.55 seconds. His time was just three-hundredths of a second off the all-time NCAA record.

With Greer's preliminary time of 7.63 seconds, he broke the legendary Willie Gault's previously untouchable 20-year-old school record twice in the same day. Greer's NCAA title wrapped up his sweep of SEC and national indoor hurdles competition.

— Public address announcement for Kentucky-Tennessee basketball game, Jan. 20, 2004

Fans go to enough sporting events and see any number of presentations before games, during timeouts and at halftime. They might wonder, "Who are these people and why are they making this presentation?" What does it all mean?

Here's a look behind the plaque, behind the presentation, to see the human story involved. First about Jabari Greer, then about Ed Murphey, the man who presents the award.

Jabari Greer joins a host of Vol track and field performers who have won the Ed Murphey Award, most notably Richmond Flowers (1967-68), Bill Skinner (1969-70), Reggie Jones (1974-75), Willie Gault (1983), world indoor heptathlon and outdoor decathlon champion Tom Pappas (1999), Lawrence Johnson (1995-96), Justin Gatlin (2001-02) and Gary Kikaya (2002), to note just a few.

It's select company, and in just a short time Greer has proved he belongs

For a sprinter to be mentioned in the same breath as Gault is a supreme compliment. Breaking his records twice in one day is really special. If Gault defined the event, Greer has refined it. It was an amazing run for him in 2003.

Like Gault, Greer wore his football hat and his track hat, being a solid performer in the secondary for Phillip Fulmer in addition to his duties for Bill Webb's Vol track team.

Vol fans remember his performance on the gridiron, especially a saving tackle on Miami's Jarrett Payton that turned a potential touchdown into a field goal in the third quarter of a 10-6 Vol victory at the Orange Bowl last November. That was a key play.

He also had seven tackles against Duke and a key interception on a two-point conversion in the third overtime at Alabama in a 51-43 Vol victory. He had a recovered fumble against Auburn and six tackles against Marshall. He appeared in 50 games as a Volunteer.

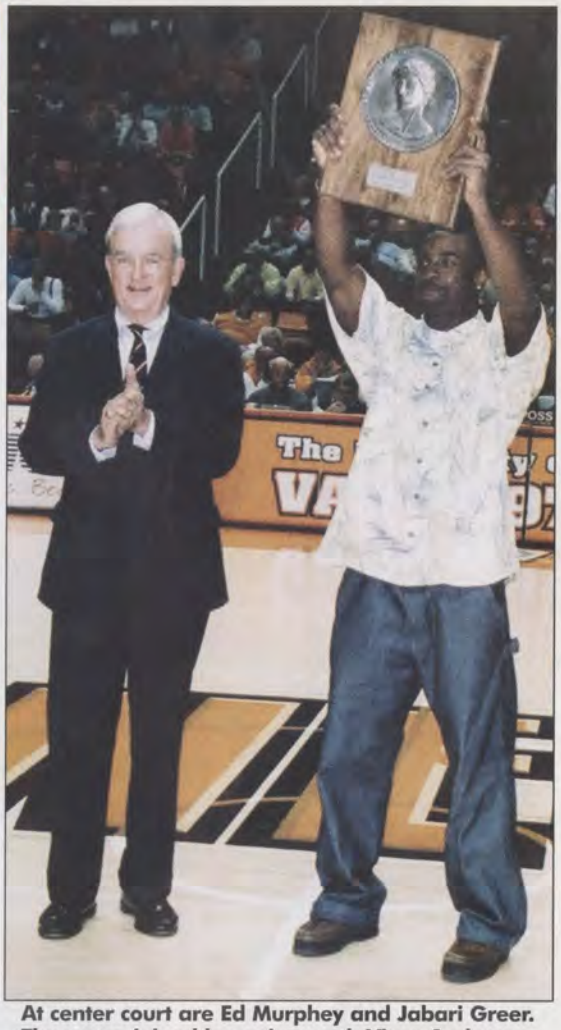
Although he played in an all-star game in Hawaii Saturday, Jan. 17, he battled the jet lag to be back in Knoxville for the ceremonies Jan. 20.

Murphey came to the University of Tennessee from Brownsville, in Haywood County, and won the SEC title in the mile run, running 4.26.8 in 1955, 4.17.3 in 1956 and 4:14.8 in 1957. He won the cross country title in 1956 in 21:21, a record at the time.

He was a 1956 All-America selection, finishing sixth in the NCAA mile run. He set a school record in the NCAAs and was the fourth-best collegiate miler that year. He also made the Olympic trials.

Murphey set an SEC record in the mile in 1957 and there's a UT connection there.

"I broke the record set by Alf Holmberg, a UT athlete in the early 1950s," Murphey said. "I still see him on occasion at track reunions and the like. He was a heck of a runner."



At center court are Ed Murphey and Jabari Greer. They were joined by sprint coach Vince Anderson.

He has nothing but fond memories of his time on The Hill.

"I never ran track in high school, but was a manager on the UT basketball team," Murphey said. "John Sines was an assistant basketball coach and head track coach. I asked him if I could come out for track. He said I could, but ordered me to 'stay out of the way.' He was a great coach and a great person.

"I graduated from high school in May 1953 and two years later I won the SEC mile run. If that's not taking advantage of an opportunity, I don't know what is. I will say that attending UT changed my whole life."

He followed Sines' instructions to the letter during his career, not getting in the way. No one in the SEC could catch him.

Murphey now works in Memphis with Ed Murphey and Associates, an estate planning company with emphasis on life insurance.

Murphey started the award under former track coach Chuck Rohe in 1965, and 43 Volunteers, with Greer the 44th, have been so honored.

As the 2003 award winner, Jabari Greer has made his mark on Vol track and field fortunes and joining a select group who have done great things when their names were called.

That's why the Tennessee track and field program has such a great tradition. That's the answer to at least the question of who those guys are on the Thompson-Boling Arena floor making and receiving the presentations.

If, as Todd Kelly observed recently in Kingsport, it's true that tradition never graduates, the Tennessee track and field tradition is alive and well these days. The tradition is as solid as ever.

That's what it all means. It may be a cliche, but you already knew that down deep in your heart.

THE TENNESSEE SCOREBOARD PAGE

MEN'S BASKETBALL (11-6, 3-5)

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE		Results
November				
5	EA Sports (Exh.)	**Knoxville**	W	110-83
14	Southeast All-Stars (Exh.)	**Knoxville**	W	114-71
21	Wofford	**Knoxville**	W	81-70
28	Tennessee State	**Knoxville**	W	81-56
December				
2	Texas A&M (SEC-TV)	**Knoxville**	W	108-84
13	at Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	L	62-77
17	The Citadel	**Knoxville**	W	99-49.
20	Georgia State	**Knoxville**	W	87-71
22	Tennessee Tech	**Knoxville**	W	79-61
30	UNC Asheville	**Knoxville**	W	80-67
January (2004)				
3	at UMass (ESPN)	Amherst, Mass.	W	74-66
7	*Georgia	**Knoxville**	W	89-65
10	*at Florida (JP)	Gainesville, Fla.	L	57-95
14	*Vanderbilt	**Knoxville**	W	76-66
17	*at South Carolina (SEC-TV)	Columbia, S.C.	L	64-85
20	*Kentucky (ESPN)	**Knoxville**	L	68-69
25	Louisville (ESPN)	**Knoxville**	L	62-65
28	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	L	60-82
31	*Florida (JP)	**Knoxville**	W	65-63
February				
4	*at LSU	Baton Rouge, La.		TBA
7	Georgia Tech (ABC)	**Knoxville**		3:30 p.m.
11	*Arkansas (JP)	**Knoxville**		8:00 p.m.
14	*at Alabama (JP)	Tuscaloosa, Ala.		3:00 p.m.
18	*Ole Miss	**Knoxville**		7:30 p.m.
21	*at Georgia (JP)	Athens, Ga.		2:00 p.m.
25	*at Kentucky (JP)	Lexington, Ky.		8:00 p.m.
28	*Auburn (SEC-TV)	**Knoxville**		7:00 p.m.
March				
3	*at Vanderbilt	Nashville, Tenn.		TBA
6	*South Carolina	**Knoxville**		TBA
11-14	SEC Tournament (JP & CBS)	Atlanta, Ga.		TBA

NCAA Final Four
April 3 & 5
San Antonio, Texas

** - SEC games*

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (18-1, 7-0)

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE		Results
November				
9	West Coast All-Stars (EXH)	**Knoxville**	W	86-57
18	Athletes in Action (EXH)	**Knoxville**	W	88-64
23	Chattanooga	**Knoxville**	W	83-52
30	Notre Dame	**Knoxville**	W	83-59
December				
7	Louisiana Tech	**Knoxville**	W	85-65
11	Rutgers	**Knoxville**	W	59-49
14	at Stanford	Stanford, Calif.	W	70-66
17	DePaul	Chicago, Ill.	W	96-89
21	Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	W	71-55
28	Texas	**Knoxville**	L	70-60
30	George Washington	Washington, D.C.	W	65-51
January 2004				
2	TCU	Ft. Worth, Tex.	W	74-66
4	Old Dominion	**Knoxville**	W	66-42
8	*Arkansas	**Knoxville**	W	83-44
11	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	W	61-53
15	*at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	W	86-58
18	*Alabama	**Knoxville**	W	72-51
22	*Vanderbilt	**Knoxville** FOX	W	79-54
24	at Duke	Durham, N.C. espn2	W	72-69
29	*at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	W	81-72
February				
1	*Auburn	**Knoxville**	W (OT)	68-61
5	Connecticut	**Knoxville** espn2		7 p.m.
8	*South Carolina	**Knoxville**		3 p.m.
12	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga. FOX		7 p.m.
15	*at Vanderbilt	Nashville		4 p.m.
19	*Florida	**Knoxville**		7 p.m.
22	*at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.		3 p.m.
26	*at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.		8 p.m.
29	*LSU	**Knoxville** FOX		3 p.m.
March				
4-7	SEC Tournament	Nashville, Tenn. FOX		TBA

NCAA Tournament Final Four
New Orleans, La.
April 4 & 6
ESPN/espn2

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
January			
3-4	Georgia Diving Invitational	Athens, Ga.	NTS
10	Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.	106-135
16	*at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	86-131
18	USA Diving Cup	Charlotte, N.C.	NTS
24	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	103-138
31	*Florida	**KNOXVILLE**	109-129
February			
25-28	SEC Championships	Athens, Ga.	All Day
March			
12-14	NCAA Zone B Diving	TBA	All Day
25-27	NCAA Championships	Long Island, N.Y.	All Day

** - SEC games*

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
January			
3-4	Georgia Diving Invitational	Athens, Ga.	NTS
10	Northwestern	**KNOXVILLE**	207-144
15-16	USA World Cup Diving Trials	Charlotte, N.C.	NTS
17	*Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	170-130
17-18	USA World Cup Diving Trials	Charlotte, N.C.	NTS
31	*Florida	**KNOXVILLE**	103-129
February			
8	at Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	1:00 PM
10-14	USA Spring National Championships	Orlando, Fla.	All Day
25-28	SEC Championships	Athens, Ga.	All Day
March			
12-14	NCAA Zone B Diving Championships	TBD	All Day
18-20	NCAA Championships	College Station, Texas	All Day

** - SEC meets*

BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
February		
13	Morehead State	**Knoxville**
14	Morehead State	**Knoxville**
15	Morehead State	**Knoxville**
20	at Miami (Fla.)	Miami
21	at Miami (Fla.)	Miami
22	at Miami (Fla.)	Miami
27	Eastern Michigan	**Knoxville**
28	Eastern Michigan	**Knoxville**
29	Eastern Michigan	**Knoxville**
March		
3	Tennessee Tech	**Knoxville**
5	Georgia State	**Knoxville**
6	Georgia State	**Knoxville**
7	Georgia State	**Knoxville**
9	Niagara	**Knoxville**
10	Niagara	**Knoxville**
12	Siena	**Knoxville**
13	Siena	**Knoxville**
14	Siena	**Knoxville**
16	Lipscomb	**Knoxville**
19	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.
20	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.
21	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.
23	at East Tennessee State	Johnson City
26	*Auburn	**Knoxville**
27	*Auburn	**Knoxville**
28	*Auburn	**Knoxville**
31	Wofford	**Knoxville**
April		
2	*Kentucky	**Knoxville**
3	*Kentucky	**Knoxville**
4	*Kentucky	**Knoxville**
7	East Tennessee State	**Knoxville**
9	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga.
10	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga.
11	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga.
13	at Wofford	Spartanburg, S.C.
16	*at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.
17	*at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.
18	*at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.
21	at Tennessee Tech	Cookeville
23	*LSU	**Knoxville**
24	*LSU	**Knoxville**
25	*LSU	**Knoxville**
28	UNC Asheville	**Knoxville**
30	*at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.
May		
1	*at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.
2	*at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.
7	*Vanderbilt	**Knoxville**
8	*Vanderbilt	**Knoxville**
9	*Vanderbilt	**Knoxville**
12	Belmont	**Knoxville**
14	*at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.
15	*at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.
16	*at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.
21	*Florida	**Knoxville**
22	*Florida	**Knoxville**
23	*Florida	**Knoxville**
26-30	SEC Tournament (Birmingham, Ala.)	
June		
4-6	NCAA Regionals (Campus sites)	
11-14	NCAA Super Regionals (Campus sites)	
18-27	College World Series (Omaha, Neb.)	

**-SEC game*

SOFTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
February			
	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TOURNAMENT (BYU, Hawaii, Oregon State, Saint Mary's, UAB)		
6-8		Honolulu, Hawaii	TBA
	NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT (BU, UT-Arlington, NMSU, San Jose State, SW Mo. State)		
13-15		Las Cruces, N.M.	TBA
	PALM SPRINGS TOURNAMENT (Cal State Fullerton, Pacific, UCLA, U.S. Olympic Team, Utah)		
20-22		Palm Springs, Calif.	TBA
25	East Tennessee State (DH)	**Knoxville**	3 P.M.
	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT (Baylor, Lipscomb, Samford)		
28-29		Waco, Texas	TBA CT
March			
2	Middle Tennessee (DH)	**Knoxville**	3 p.m.
6	LSU (DH)	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
7	LSU	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
9	*at Kentucky (DH)	Lexington, Ky.	4 p.m.
10	*at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	3 p.m.
13	*at Alabama (DH)	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	1 p.m. CT
14	*at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	1:30 p.m. CT
16	Georgia Southern (DH)	**Knoxville**	4 p.m.
17	Appalachian State (DH)	**Knoxville**	4 p.m.
20	*at Mississippi State (DH)	Starkville, Miss.	Noon CT
21	*at Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	12:30 p.m. CT
24	Austin Peay (DH)	**Knoxville**	3 p.m.
	LADY VOL CLASSIC (Gardner Webb, Liberty, Tennessee Tech, UTEP)		
26-28		**Knoxville**	TBA
30	*South Carolina (DH)	**Knoxville**	4 p.m.
31	*South Carolina	**Knoxville**	4 p.m.
April			
3	*at Arkansas (DH)	Fayetteville, Ark.	Noon CT
4	*at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	Noon CT
8	Lipscomb (DH)	**Knoxville**	4 p.m.
10	*Auburn (DH)	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
11	*Auburn	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
17	*Florida (DH)	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
18	*Florida	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
	STATE-LINE CLASSIC		
21	at Radford	Bristol, Tenn.	5 p.m.
21	at Virginia Tech	Bristol, Tenn.	7 p.m.
24	*at Georgia (DH)	Athens, Ga.	1 p.m.
25	*at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	1 p.m.
May			
1	*at Ole Miss (DH)	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
2	*at Ole Miss	**Knoxville**	1 p.m.
13-16	SEC Tournament	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	TBA
20-23	NCAA Regionals	Campus Sites	TBA
27-31	Women's College World Series		Oklahoma City, Okla.

** - SEC games*

WOMEN'S GOLF

DATE	TOURNAMENT	SITE
February		
23-25	Arizona Wildcat Invitational	Tucson, Ariz.
March		
7-9	Lady Gator Invitational	Gainesville, Fla.
26-28	Liz Murphey Collegiate	Athens, Ga.
April		
2-4	Bryan National Collegiate	Greensboro, N.C.
16-18	SEC Championship	Baton Rouge, La.
May		
6-8	NCAA Regionals	Illinois State, Stetson or Stanford
18-21	NCAA Championships	Auburn, Ala.

MEN'S GOLF

DATE	TOURNAMENT	SITE
January		
31-Feb. 1	Gator Invitational	6th
February		
8-10	Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship	Jacksonville, Fla.
March		
1-2	Cleveland Golf Collegiate Classic	Los Angeles, Calif.
8-9	Louisiana Classic	Lafayette, La.
20-21	Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational	Statesboro, Ga.
April		
10-11	The Intercollegiate	Raleigh, N.C.
16-18	SEC Championships	Sea Island, Ga.
May		
20-22	NCAA East Regional	Yale, Conn.
June		
1-4	NCAA Championships	Hot Springs, Va.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Date	Opponent	Location	Outcome
January			
9	Tennessee All-Comers Meet	**Knoxville**	NTS
24	at Gator Invitational	Gainesville, Fla.	NTS
30-31	at Penn State Invitational	University Park, Pa.	NTS
February			
13-14	at Tyson Invitational	Fayetteville, Ark.	All Day
20	Tennessee Indoor Invitational	**Knoxville**	TBA
27-29	SEC Indoor Championships	Lexington, Ky.	All Day
March			
5-6	at Alex Wilson Invitational	Notre Dame, Ind.	All Day
12-13	NCAA Indoor Championships	Fayetteville, Ark.	All Day
26-27	at Raleigh Relays	Raleigh, N.C.	All Day
April			
7-10	Sea Ray Relays	**Knoxville**	All Day
16-18	Mt. SAC Relays	Walnut, Calif.	All Day
22-24	at Penn Relays	Philadelphia, Pa.	All Day
25	Knoxville Invitational	**Knoxville**	TBA
May			
1	Gatorade Classic	**Knoxville**	TBA
13-16	SEC Outdoor Championships	Oxford, Miss.	All Day
28-29	NCAA Mideast Regional	Baton Rouge, La.	All Day
June			
9-12	NCAA Outdoor Championships	Austin, Texas	All Day

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Date	Opponent	Location	Outcome
January			
9	Tennessee All-Comers	**Knoxville**	NTS
16-17	at Kentucky Invitational	Lexington, Ky.	NTS
23-24	at Virginia Tech Invitational	Blacksburg, Va.	NTS
30-31	at Rod McCravy Invitational	Lexington, Ky.	NTS
30-31	at Clemson Indoor Heptathlon	Clemson, S.C.	NTS
February			
7	at Husker Invitational	Lincoln, Neb.	TBA
13-14	at Armory Collegiate Invitational	New York, N.Y.	TBA
20	at Tennessee Invitational	**Knoxville**	TBA
27-29	SEC Indoor Championships	Lexington, Ky.	TBA
March			
6	at Florida State Invitational	Tallahassee, Fla.	TBA
12-13	NCAA Indoor Championships	Fayetteville, Ark.	TBA
19-21	at Alabama Relays	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	TBA
26-27	at Raleigh Relays	Raleigh, N.C.	TBA
April			
2-3	at Texas Relays	Austin, Texas	TBA
3	at Georgia Tech Invitational	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
7-10	Sea Ray Relays	**Knoxville**	All Day
22-24	at Penn Relays	Philadelphia, Pa.	All Day
25	Knoxville Invitational	**Knoxville**	TBA
May			
1-2	Gatorade Classic	**Knoxville**	TBA
13-16	SEC Outdoor Championships	Oxford, Miss.	All Day
28-29	NCAA Regional Championships	Baton Rouge, La.	All Day
June			
9-12	NCAA Outdoor Championships	Austin, Texas	All Day

MEN'S TENNIS (3-1, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Location	Outcome
January			
15-17	SEC Coaches Indoor Champ.	Athens, Ga.	NTS
24	Memphis	**Knoxville**	W 7-1
24	Tenn Martin	**Knoxville**	W 7-0
30	Georgia Southern	**Knoxville**	W 7-0
31	Virginia	**Knoxville**	L 3-4
February			
6	USTA Futures	TBA	
6	National Team Indoors	Seattle, Wash.	
7	National Team Indoors	Seattle, Wash.	
7	USTA Futures	TBA	
8	National Team Indoors	Seattle, Wash.	
8-22	USTA Futures	TBA	
14	William & Mary	**Knoxville**	
14	East Tenn St	**Knoxville**	
20	Duke	**Knoxville**	
March			
5	Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	
7	LSU	Baton Rouge, La.	
13	The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	
14	College of Charleston	Charleston, S.C.	
19	Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.	
21	Mississippi St	Starkville, Miss.	
26	South Carolina	**Knoxville**	
28	Florida	**Knoxville**	
April			
2	Vanderbilt	**Knoxville**	
4	Kentucky	**Knoxville**	
10	Georgia	**Knoxville**	
16	Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	
18	Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	
22-25	SEC Championships	Nashville	

WOMEN'S TENNIS (3-1, 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Location	Outcome
January			
16-18	Freeman Mem. Championships	Las Vegas, Nev.	NTS
24	Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.	L 3-4
25	Ohio St.	Columbus, Ohio	W 4-3
30	Purdue	**Knoxville**	W 6-1
February			
1	Illinois	**Knoxville**	W 5-2
5-8	ITA Indoor Championships	Madison, Wisc.	
14	Wake Forest	Winston Salem, N.C.	
15	North Carolina	**Knoxville**	
21	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	
27	Auburn *	**Knoxville**	
29	Alabama *	**Knoxville**	
March			
5	Arkansas *	**Knoxville**	
7	LSU *	**Knoxville**	
10	Hawai'i	Honolulu, Hawai'i	
12	Duke	Hilo, Hawai'i	
13	Notre Dame	Hilo, Hawai'i	
17	Texas	**Knoxville**	
19	Mississippi *	**Knoxville**	
21	Mississippi St. *	**Knoxville**	
26	South Carolina *	Columbia, S.C.	
28	Florida *	Gainesville, Fla.	
April			
2	Vanderbilt *	Nashville	
4	Kentucky *	Lexington, Ky.	
10	Georgia *	Athens, Ga.	
15-16	SEC Championships	Nashville	

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